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## Politicians In U.K. Get Tug-of-War On Pinochet

### Government Cautious About Extradition Case As Chile Seeks Release

By Warren Hoge  
New York Times Service

LONDON — General Augusto Pinochet's effort to escape extradition to Spain and a possible mass-murder trial moved into the political arena Thursday, with the British government facing the decision of whether to go forward with the diplomatically volatile case.

Home Secretary Jack Straw requested a weeklong extension, until mid-December, of the deadline by which he must authorize moving the Spanish petition for extradition forward or let the 63-year-old former dictator return home to Chile.

The Chilean Embassy delivered written arguments for the release of General Pinochet to the Home Office, and Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza of Chile was flying to London from Santiago for a Friday morning meeting with Robin Cook, the foreign secretary.

Holding to a government line, Mr. Cook said he stressed to his Chilean counterpart that the extradition process was judicial, not political. Mr. Straw, for his part, said he would be acting in a "quasi-judicial" role.

The Law Lords of the House of Lords, England's highest court, set the stage for Britain's deepening involvement in the case Wednesday by ruling that General Pinochet did not enjoy sovereign immunity from arrest under British law. The ruling, an unexpected reversal of a lower court decision last month, was hailed by human rights groups and a number of European governments as an advance in international law and a warning to dictators that they could not escape punishment for abuses in office. Critics denounced it as a reckless extension of authority across national boundaries that could encourage prosecutors to try to extradite people such as Queen Elizabeth II or President Bill Clinton on their travels abroad.

See PINOCHET, Page 6



## Thousands Mourn Slain Iranian Dissident

The son of Darioush Forouhar, Arash, consoling his sister, Parastou, at their father's funeral in Tehran on Thursday. Tens of thousands, some chanting anti-government slogans, turned out to mourn the murdered opposition leader. The bodies of Mr. Forouhar and his wife were found in their home Sunday. Page 12.

## Tempest at Tokyo Summit

### Wartime Memories Trip Up China-Japan Talks

By Nicholas D. Kristof  
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi apologized Thursday to President Jiang Zemin of China for Japan's World War II conduct, but the two countries immediately became entangled in an uproar about the wartime memories that still haunt relations between the two great powers of East Asia.

Mr. Jiang is the first Chinese head of state ever to visit Japan, and the five-day trip had been intended as a milestone in the process of healing the suspicions between the two countries. Instead, the meeting of the two leaders on Thursday seemed to inflame the antagonisms.

The upshot was that instead of focusing on the Asian economic crisis or the risks of war on the Korean Peninsula, the summit meeting has been caught up in disputes about events of half a century ago. Once again, the main force shaping East Asia's future has turned out to be its past.

Officials from both sides played down the disagreement, emphasizing that Mr. Jiang and Mr. Obuchi had agreed on a wide range of important issues, from environmental cooperation to youth exchanges. But a joint declaration by the two leaders was delayed for more than five hours, and in an unusual move it was released without being signed by anyone.

Mr. Jiang had wanted two concessions from Mr. Obuchi: a clear-cut written apology to the Chinese people for



President Jiang Zemin lending an ear to Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi on Thursday after the two leaders signed a youth-exchange pact in Tokyo.

World War II behavior by Japan, similar to the apology Japan gave South Korea last month; and a pledge about relations with Taiwan similar to the "three noes" statement by President Bill Clinton to China during the U.S. leader's visit earlier this year. Japan rebuffed Mr. Jiang on both counts, instead offering an oral apology for the war.

"For the Japan-China relationship to develop further in the future, it is necessary to face up to the past squarely,"

Mr. Obuchi told Mr. Jiang. "There was an unfortunate relationship between Japan and China for a certain period in the past."

"The Japanese government expresses once again its remorse and apology to China on this occasion," Mr. Obuchi added.

Akiyaka Saiki, Prime Minister Obuchi's spokesman, said that Mr. Jiang had

See SUMMIT, Page 4

## With 400 Days Left to Fix the Millennium Bug, It's Crunch Time

By Tom Buerkle  
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — When the year 2000 computer problem gained wide recognition a couple of years ago, the first reaction was disbelief that a computer's inability to distinguish 2000 from 1900 could seriously disrupt modern life.

Subsequently, companies and governments scrambled to fix the problem. Billions of dollars went into computer software, hardware, and testing. But with only 400 days to go to 2000, there is a growing realization that time is quickly running out.

So today, governments and industry no longer talk simply about fixing the millennium bug. They

are actively preparing contingency plans to keep vital operations going as best as they can if and when problems arise.

"At this point in time, we can say with assurance there are people who aren't going to make it," said Michael Powell, a commissioner at the U.S. Federal Communications Commission.

"We're definitely past the period of where you're going to solve the problem. We're into mitigation."

The new emphasis on anticipating failures reflects the unprecedented nature of the year 2000 problem. The pervasiveness of technology and the complexity of supply chains can cause problems to



RETOOLING FOR THE YEAR 2000  
An occasional series.

cascade through the global economy, disrupting business activity, communications and transportation networks, and basic services like power and water.

While multinational companies and banks appear well-prepared, many government agencies and companies, especially small businesses, are behind schedule or have yet to address the problem.

"We may be ready," said Max Rens, chief information officer of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. But he added, referring to Europe's patchwork of air-traffic control systems, "we can't fly if they are not ready."

The steps being taken range from the mundane,

like restocking forms to be able to revert to paper if computerized order systems fail, to the strategic, such as finding alternative suppliers of parts or stockpiling raw materials and finished goods, which companies like Unilever are considering.

American and British authorities are drawing up plans for police and emergency services to respond to widespread disruptions or civil unrest.

Even the U.S. Federal Reserve has gotten into action, ordering the printing of an extra \$50 billion of notes in case consumers hoard cash ahead of the millennium bug weekend.

"Contingency planning should be considered a legitimate exercise and not an admission that you

See BUG, Page 12

## AGENDA

### UN Food Agency Says Hunger Worsens Throughout World

ROME (Reuters) — The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization said Thursday that the number of chronically hungry people in the world was rising and that the Asian financial crisis could spell even more pain for the poor.

The Rome-based agency, which in 1996 was host to a World Food Summit that aimed to halve the number of hungry people by 2015, said in an annual State of Food and Agriculture Report that the number of severely undernourished people in developing countries rose to 828 million in 1994-96, from 822 million in 1990-92.

The overall percentage of malnourished people as a part of the world population inched down to 19 percent from 20 percent over the period, but that slight improvement was nevertheless too small to compensate for population growth.

"Recent trends give no room for complacency as progress in some regions has been more than offset by a deterioration in others," the agency said in the report.

Page 9  
Page 4  
Page 8-9  
Page 22-23  
Page 20, 21  
The International Herald Tribune



DEADLY ACCIDENT — Rescuers searching the wreckage Thursday after two trains collided, killing at least 108, in the Indian state of Punjab. Page 4.

## Exxon and Mobil Discuss Deal to Create Oil Giant

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Exxon Corp. and Mobil Corp., split apart nearly 90 years ago by antitrust regulators, are discussing a merger that would create the world's premier energy business, people familiar with the deal said Thursday.

Exxon, the biggest U.S. oil company, and Mobil, the second-biggest, would have about 22 percent of the U.S. gasoline market and refine more oil than any company in the world.

The two companies would not comment on the talks or the price, but sources put the value of the deal at \$61 billion.

The combined company "would be the best, bar none, global oil concern," said Fadel Gheit, an analyst at Falmestock & Co. in New York.

On Wednesday, Mobil shares rose 4.6 percent, or \$5.4375, to \$78.375 on speculation it would be bought. Exxon closed unchanged at \$72.6875. U.S. markets were closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Any union would reunite two parts of John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil

Trust, which the U.S. Supreme Court broke up in 1911.

Exxon was then known as Standard Oil of New Jersey, and Mobil consisted of two companies: Standard Oil of New York and Vacuum Oil.

"This one stroke could reconstitute more than half of the value of the Standard Oil trust when it was broken up,"

OPEC ministers fail to reach deal on further cuts in output. Page 13

said Ronald Chernow, a historian and author of the best-seller "Titan: The Life of John D. Rockefeller Sr."

Consequently, any plan to merge the oil giants would get close scrutiny from regulators. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission may require the two to sell some refining operations, fuel stations and pipelines to prevent unfair competition, said Steve Newborn, an antitrust lawyer with Rogers & Wells.

See EXXON, Page 19

## Blair Makes Historic Plea Before Irish Parliament

By James F. Clarity  
New York Times Service

DUBLIN — Speaking as the first British prime minister ever to address the Irish Republic Parliament, Tony Blair said Thursday that centuries of British-Irish hostility and war had ended and that London and Dublin must now rescue the stalled Northern Ireland peace effort.

Mr. Blair, addressing a joint session of the Seanad, or Senate, and the Dail, or lower house, received several ovations, one when he said, "So much shared history, so much shared pain. And now the shared hope of a new beginning."

The event was covered live by Irish national television, another in the increasing efforts of Ireland and Britain to become closer. The Irish president, Mary McAleese, has visited Queen Elizabeth II in London. The queen's husband, Prince Philip, visited Dublin two weeks ago.

The queen is widely expected to become the first British monarch to visit southern Ireland since it won independence after an insurrection in the early 1920s.

Many of the 226 Irish lawmakers smiled as Mr. Blair spoke a line of Gaelic, and as he talked nostalgically of his Irish roots.

"It is a cementing of the close friendly relationship between the two governments," said Brian Farrell, Irish television's senior commentator.

Mr. Blair had spent Wednesday in Belfast talking to the leaders of the main Northern Ireland parties. In his address Thursday, saying the peace effort was "at a difficult juncture," he urged a solution to the problems blocking the exacting of the provisions of the Northern Ireland peace agreement approved in the spring.

He alluded to the basic obstacle, the dispute over disarmament of the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republican Army in the predominantly Protestant British province of Northern Ireland.

See BLAIR, Page 6

## French Charity: A Weak Culture of Giving in the Land of Fraternity

By Charles Truheart  
Washington Post Service

PARIS — An unseasonably cold temperature claimed the lives of eight homeless people here this week and shelters were crisscrossed to capacity. French leaders issued public appeals for vigilance and compassion. But what might sound like boilerplate elsewhere carried a pointed message here about civic responsibility and the stubborn limits of France's trademark fraternity. "Every French person should feel

personally concerned," President Jacques Chirac gently reminded his people, while Marine Aubry, the Socialist government's minister of employment and solidarity, was quite explicit in anticipating what French people might be telling themselves.

"All does not depend on the state or the mayor," she said. "Much can also depend on [yourself]. There's no point in shedding crocodile tears. Everyone can do something to make things better."

France's extensive web of social protections and its people's historic faith in the state to take care of the dispossessed (and everyone else) have made the French far less inclined than their neighbors in Britain and Ireland, or than Americans and Canadians, to take matters of charity and philanthropy in their own hands.

Parisians give to panhandlers on the street or in subway cars, and the French respond generously to faraway human-

itarian disasters like Rwanda's or natural calamities like Hurricane Mitch. But the culture of individual giving to church, school, symphony or soup kitchen has never flourished here to the degree that it has in what the French call Anglo-Saxon societies, by which they mean English-speaking ones.

According to a recent study, the French citizen gives, on average, approximately 15 percent of his annual taxable income to nonprofit organiza-

tions. The figure in neighboring Germany, according to the same study, is twice that. In the United States, it is eight times larger, about 1.2 percent of income.

Richard Van Ham, an American-born accountant in Paris, is always struck by a paradox when he prepares tax returns: "The French are good socialists, but they are lousy philanthropists. Amer-

See FRANCE, Page 6

## Stuff a Turkey? Americans Prefer to Stuff Themselves

By Sharon Walsh  
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — Keith Eldridge is one of the people who made the traditional Thanksgiving scene come to life here: men and women loading ready-to-eat turkeys with all the trimmings into limousines, cars or taxis on the way home from the deli, grocery or caterer. "Busy? I've never been so busy in my life!" Mr. Eldridge, executive chef at El's Vinegar Factory, said Thursday

as he shouted orders to employees preparing Thanksgiving dishes.

Four years ago, when this gourmet food store on the posh Upper East Side began offering cooked turkeys and prepared side dishes that New Yorkers could pick up or have delivered, it had 60 orders. This year, it had 450.

And New Yorkers were not alone. Of the 45 million turkey dinners at the center of Thanksgiving rituals around the United States this year, 13 percent included dishes not prepared by home-

cooks who rose at dawn to stuff the turkey, whip the potatoes and bake the pies, according to the Grocery Manufacturers of America. "This is the Thanksgiving of the future," said Vivian Deuschel, a vice president at Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co. "You leave it to the professionals."

New York, culinary experts say, is the ultimate city for takeout and delivery. The kitchen — some call it the unwrapping room — is small, time is scarce and there are thousands of gour-

met shops, caterers and restaurants.

Take Laura Jones, an Upper East Sider who prepared Thanksgiving dinner for 10 friends by polishing the silver and putting out the Linoges plates.

"The first time I did Thanksgiving in Manhattan, it was a total disaster," said Ms. Jones, who carried home a 14-pound turkey to cook for that event.

"The turkey was too big for the oven. That's why I never cook."

See GOBBLE, Page 12

| Newstand Prices |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Andorra         | 10.00 FF Lebanon        |
| Antilles        | 12.50 FF Morocco        |
| Cameroon        | 1.800 CFA Qatar         |
| Egypt           | SE 6.50 Réunion         |
| El Salvador     | 10.00 FF Saudi Arabia   |
| Ghana           | 1.100 CFA Senegal       |
| Italy           | 3.000 Lire Spain        |
| Ivory Coast     | 1.250 CFA Tunisia       |
| Jordan          | 1.250 JD UAE            |
| Kuwait          | 700 Fils U.S. \$ (Exc.) |



## Too Goody to Be True? / British Journalist's Next Stop: Lewinsky

## Kenyans Puzzle Over Sympathetic Portrait of Moi

By Ian Fisher  
New York Times Service

**N**AIROBI — The man hired to write Monica Lewinsky's side of the presidential scandal has become famous here in the last few weeks, maybe even more famous than she is. And from what Kenyans have seen, this much is clear: If she is looking for a sympathetic ear, she probably picked the right man.

Sandwiched between his account of the crumbling marriage of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the Lewinsky book, the British journalist Andrew Morton spent three years writing about another public figure: Daniel arap Moi, the president of Kenya since 1978.

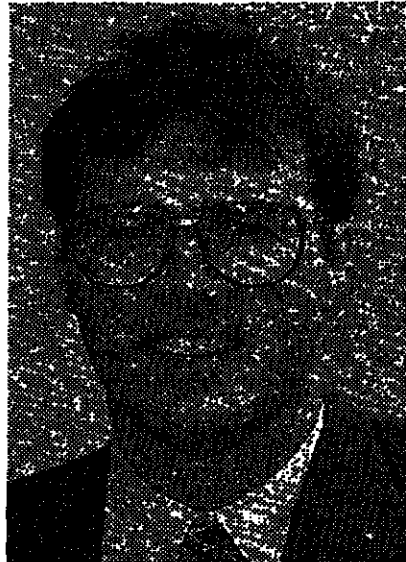
The book about Mr. Moi, a mysterious figure to many people here, was published this month. In the first few days it sold 7,000 copies, faster than any book before, as Kenyans rushed to read one of the only in-depth works about their president.

But sales are slackening off, and some Kenyans are growing angry at what they say is Mr. Morton's relentlessly sunny story, from Mr. Moi's boyhood in the rural Rift Valley to his rise to power to the still-unresolved murder in 1991 of one of his top aides.

The biography is so positive and apologetic that many people in Kenya are confused: either Mr. Morton was paid to write the book, which his publishers deny, or he was writing about some other Mr. Moi.

"Perhaps because serving his nation is his second nature, he rarely, if ever, thinks of himself before his country," reads a typical sentence in the 305-page book, "Moi: The Making of an African Statesman," published by Michael O'Mara Books, the same company that is putting out the Lewinsky book.

"It's an odd book," said John Githongo, a political analyst and



Andrew Morton, who wrote an account of the marriage of Diana, Princess of Wales, and will present the Monica Lewinsky version of the presidential scandal, was nice to Daniel arap Moi.

columnist for The East African, a weekly newspaper that has been running sections of the book this month, and selling a lot more papers because of it. "The character that is created is so different from the one most Kenyans believe they know."

"For Monica Lewinsky, I think it's quite healthy," he added.

Despite his two decades in office, many Kenyans say their president remains a cipher. Critics contend he is an inarticulate throwback — one of the last African "Big Men" who has ruled by opposing multiparty democracy, encouraging ethnic divisiveness and, at a minimum, sitting back as corruption eroded the economy.

There is a more charitable view, which Mr. Morton embraces on every page: that for all his faults, Mr. Moi has been a friend to the West who has kept Kenya largely peaceful as neighboring countries crumbled into conflict. Many people maintain education has improved, and

Kenyans, and their vibrant press, can mostly say what they please, although there are sometimes repercussions.

As his rule nears an end — Mr. Moi, 74, must step down in 2002 — he is reportedly worried about embedding the latter view into history.

Along came Mr. Morton, who had earned millions of dollars on his books about the British royalty, notably, "Diana: Her True Story," written in 1992 with the covert cooperation of the princess.

**T**HERE has been much speculation, here and in Britain, about exactly why Mr. Morton decided to take on the project and why Mr. Moi, who has granted few interviews in his life, cooperated. A person close to both the government and Mr. Morton said Mr. Moi was concerned about his legacy and felt Mr. Morton would be sympathetic.

"There is a feeling at State

House that the president doesn't get a fair wind," the person said.

Despite speculation in the press here about exactly how much Mr. Morton might have been paid for the book, the person denied that any money had changed hands.

"He looked me straight in the eye and told me in absolutely no way was he paid by State House," the person said.

Still, the book's tone has done little to dampen suspicions. "One cannot help hoping that Morton was well paid for this book," read a scathing review in The Times of London, "since it will do his reputation nothing but harm."

Mr. Morton, reportedly holed up in Los Angeles with Ms. Lewinsky working on her book, could not be reached for comment.

But he has become a celebrity in his own right here, though much of the attention has not been good. Most contentious has been Mr. Morton's explanation of the murder of Dr. Robert Ouko, the foreign minister who was seen as a possible rival to Mr. Moi. The

death has long hung over Mr. Moi's rule, and the killing has been linked to several people close to the president.

Mr. Morton singles out one of them, Hezekiah Oyugi, the security chief, raising the possibility that Mr. Ouko had an affair with one of Mr. Oyugi's three wives.

Mr. Oyugi died six years ago, but his family disputes Mr. Morton's account.

**O**NE of Kenya's most respected journalists, Justice Richard Otieno Kwach, is threatening to sue Mr. Morton over an allegation that he and two other judges investigating the murder were regularly entertained at Mr. Oyugi's house.

"He didn't give any of us the opportunity to rebut the allegations," Justice Kwach said. "He just swallowed what he was given, hook, line and sinker."

Justice Kwach fumed during most of an interview, but then broke out into unjudicial laughter when the subject of Monica Lewinsky's book arose.

"I wasn't surprised," he said. "I don't think he will be engaged in anything better."

A sampling of Kenyans in Nairobi said that the book was worth reading no matter what, simply, they said, because they know so little about Mr. Moi's life. What they thought of the book depended largely on what they thought of the man.

"Everyone wants to know the personal life of the president — about why he is such a great president and what his secret is being so powerful, great and energetic," said Jitesh Upadhyay, 34, a bookstore owner.

But few were so upbeat.

"I want to know how he has survived all these political upheavals," said George Muturia, 26, an anthropology student who had just bought the book. "I'm not very optimistic. But I'm hoping to get some clues."

## Adoptee Undoes A State of Secrecy

By Rene Sanchez  
Washington Post Service

**PORTLAND, Oregon** — She spent almost all the money she had, campaigned day and night for a year and battled adoption advocates from across the country. Now, finally, Helen Hill has exactly what she wants: The right for her, and others here who are adopted, to learn the identity of their birth parents.

Ms. Hill's crusade ended in triumph when voters in Oregon this month approved a ballot initiative that would make this state the first since the 1950s to unseal confidential birth records and give any adoptees who ask a full accounting of their pasts, even if their natural parents never wanted them to find out.

In the complex, emotional world of adoption, the new law marks a revolutionary shift. It is deeply dividing the U.S. adoption industry. Some people who help arrange adoptions are so dismayed by its approval that they are making to get the state legislature or Oregon courts to negate it. Other adoption groups are so ecstatic that they are planning to take their cause directly to voters in other states across the West.

At the heart of the debate is a question that many still find difficult to answer: Who should have more rights, a parent who gives up a child for adoption or a child who was adopted?

"We have been on the losing side of this issue for decades," said Ms. Hill, 43, a soft-spoken adoptee who teaches art in the coastal town of Nehalem, Oregon, an hour's drive west of here. "This has been a system that engenders too much shame and secrecy, and this is our first major step to reclaim our dignity."

Only a few months ago, opponents of her measure were paying little attention to it because it seemed so poorly financed and obscure. Now, after watching it pass with nearly 58 percent of the vote, their worry is whether it will spread. And they are convinced that it will produce far more pain than healing.

Under the new Oregon law, for example, mothers who never told their families or friends of their secret decision to put up a child for adoption years ago, or those who gave up a child conceived during a rape, could be exposed even though at the time the state promised them complete confidentiality.

"This invades people's privacy in the most basic way," said William Pierce, president of the National Council for Adoption, a Washington group that represents professionals in the field. "It is a terrible precedent. This tells people who won't take 'no' for an answer that they can have whatever information they want, no matter who it damages."

It was once common practice to keep adoption records open. But after World War II, amid a surge of out-of-wedlock births and a socially conservative mood across the country, every state but Kansas passed laws that shrouded adoptions in secrecy. Since then, Alaska in the 1950s and, more recently, Tennessee have overturned those laws. But the Tennessee legislation is mired in the courts and has not gone into effect.

Today, the stigmas that once surrounded many adoptions are fading. It is no longer unusual even for the two sets of parents involved in an adoption to work together or meet briefly, or for children to learn that they were adopted as soon as they are old enough to comprehend what that means.

But that new climate does little good for the many thousands of children adopted a generation ago. As they have come of age, often with at best a sketchy sense of their past, they have put pressure on states to tell them more, and they claim they usually meet resistance.

Many states are willing to give adoptees general information about their natural parents, such as their ethnicity or occupations. Others have created adoption registries in which third parties investigate whether a parent wants to be contacted. But that information sets off a protracted investigation that may or may not turn up the birth parents.

As a result, some adoption-rights groups say both steps are too limited or too flawed.

Ms. Hill and an activist group called Bastard Nation have been working for several years to get the rules of confidentiality pasted on forever. Their efforts in state legislatures never went far. Then they realized that Oregon, like many other states in the West, had a relatively easy process for getting a citizen-sponsored initiative on the ballot.

Ms. Hill contributed more than \$85,000 from an inheritance she received from her adoptive father — who himself was adopted — to promote the ballot initiative. Most of it was paid to the firm that collected the required voter signatures.

The American Civil Liberties Union opposed the measure, as did the most prominent Oregon newspapers. Ms. Hill said Bastard Nation lacked money for radio or television advertising; they bought only one full-page newspaper ad. But they won the backing of such prominent adoptees as Michael Reagan, son of the former president, and Christina Crawford, daughter of the late actress Joan Crawford and author of the best-selling book "Mommie Dearest."

## Flip Wilson, Pioneering Black Comedian, Is Dead at 64

By Mel Watkins  
New York Times Service

**Flip Wilson, 64**, the popular comedian who became the first black entertainer to be the host of a successful weekly variety show on American network television, died of liver cancer Wednesday in Malibu, California.

Mr. Wilson was best known for his portrayals of such outrageous, over-the-top characters as the Reverend Leroy of the Church of What's Happening Now and Geraldine, the sassy but proud black woman whose flamboyance, enthusiasm, and screeching, high-pitched voice was recognized by millions of viewers.

Her trademark quips — "When you're hot, you're hot; when you're not, you're not," "The devil made me do it," and "What you see is what you get" — became national catch phrases, part of everyone's vocabulary when Mr. Wilson's

variety show in the 1970s became one of America's best-watched programs.

Late in his career, Mr. Wilson said of the irrepressible Geraldine, "She carried me longer than my mother did."

Geraldine and the Reverend Leroy, along with Mr. Wilson's likable personality, seemingly effortless delivery, and joyful depiction of the language and mannerisms of black street life helped catapult "The Flip Wilson Show" to No. 1 in the ratings among variety shows shortly after it began on NBC in 1970. The next year, Mr. Wilson won an Emmy for Outstanding Writing Achievement for a Variety Show and, by 1972, his show was second in the overall ratings only to Archie Bunker and "All in the Family."

More storyteller than one-liner, standup comic, Mr. Wilson's wind-up tales and uninhibited use of the

timbre and resonance of black dialect were often compared to the Yiddish inflections and stories of the comedian Myron Cohen.

Richard Pryor told him, "You're the only performer that I've seen who goes on the stage and the audience hopes that you like them."

Unlike many groundbreaking comedians of his period, most notably Lenny Bruce, Dick Gregory and Mort Sahl, Mr. Wilson stayed far afield of politics and social satire. "Things can be funny only when we are in fun," he insisted. "When we're 'dead earnest,' humor is the only thing that is dead."

In his version of the discovery of America, Christopher Columbus tells Queen Isabella, "If I don't discover America, there's not gonna be a Benjamin Franklin or a 'Star-Spangled Banner,' or a land of the free, or a home of the brave — and no Ray Charles." When the queen hears this, she screams,

"Chris gone find Ray Charles! He goin' to America on that boat. What you say!"

Wilson also delighted in telling shaggy dog stories that wound through circuitous asides and ended with unexpected puns and innocent word play. In a routine, set near the Coliseum in ancient Rome, where the Christians fought the lions, he announced: "These lions were undefeated — the Christians had a great coach... but the team was shaky."

And his story of a vaudeville comedy team called Well Enough and Bad Enough concludes in a courtroom scene after one comic has been assaulted by a hotel clerk. Given a particularly harsh sentence, the hotel clerk asks the judge, "How come you being so hard on me?" The judge replies, "I'm trying to teach you to leave Well Enough alone."

Clerow Wilson was born in Jer-

sey City, New Jersey, on Dec. 8, 1933, one of a family of 18 children. He was placed in foster care at the age of 7, shortly after his mother abandoned the family. A series of unhappy periods in foster homes followed; after running away more than a dozen times, he was sent to reform school.

At 13 he rejoined his father, but at 16 he quit school and, lying about his age, joined the air force. His knack for creating outlandish stories and acting them out in various dialects led some members of his outfit to conclude that he was "flipping out." Soon, everyone was calling him Flip.

After his discharge in 1954, Mr. Wilson worked his way across the United States, appearing in black clubs and theaters where he honed his skills and silenced insistent hecklers with lines such as, "You know, when we take over, we got to have to kill some of us, too."

## TRAVEL UPDATE

## France Faces New Rail Strike

**PARIS (AFP)** — France's state-owned railroad, the SNCF, said Thursday it was cutting back services sharply as the second strike called by

French rail unions this week was scheduled to begin.

The strike, to put pressure on the SNCF to hire more workers, was to start Thursday evening and last until Saturday morning.

Railroad officials said such international services as the

high-speed Eurostar line to London and the Thalys line to Brussels as well as high-speed trains to Switzerland would not be affected.

The SNCF said domestic services in most of France would be cut by two-thirds and that Paris-area commuter trains would also be affected.

## 20 Sculptures For Tuileries

**PARIS (AP)** — A bronze cast of Auguste Rodin's monumental "The Kiss," looted by the Nazis during World War II, will go on permanent display this week in the Tuileries Gardens.

The installation is part of a plan by France's Culture Ministry to put 20 pieces of modern sculpture in the gardens by the end of next year.

The Rodin is among the first 12 pieces of sculpture being installed this week in the Tuileries. An inauguration ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 9. The rest are to be in place by the end of next year.

Scandinavian Airlines System plans to add a flight to its Copenhagen-Luxembourg service starting Jan. 10, bringing the total number of weekly flights to three. The company will also begin service between Copenhagen and Hangesund, Norway, on Jan. 11. (AP)

Air France will introduce three daily flights each between Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris and Edinburgh and Glasgow on March 28. The flights, which are to be operated by Air France's franchise partner, Jersey European Airways. (AP)

## Correction

A Page One caption Thursday misidentified Ryutaro Hashimoto. He is the former Japanese prime minister.

## WEATHER

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.

## Europe

|              | Today | High  | Low   | High  | Low   |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Algeria      | 18/24 | 18/25 | 18/25 | 18/25 | 18/25 |
| Amsterdam    | 12/14 | 12/14 | 12/14 | 12/14 | 12/14 |
| Athens       | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 |
| Berlin       | 12/14 | 12/14 | 12/14 | 12/14 | 12/14 |
| Bombay       | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Buenos Aires | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 |
| Calcutta     | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Cairo        | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 |
| Chennai      | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Columbo      | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Dhaka        | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Delhi        | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Dubai        | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Guangzhou    | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Hong Kong    | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Jaipur       | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Kolkata      | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| London       | 12/14 | 12/14 | 12/14 | 12/14 | 12/14 |
| Los Angeles  | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 |
| Madras       | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Mumbai       | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Nairobi      | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| New Delhi    | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Osaka        | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 |
| Paris        | 12/14 | 12/14 | 12/14 | 12/14 | 12/14 |
| Rangoon      | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Seoul        | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 |
| Singapore    | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 | 28/34 |
| Taipei       | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 |
| Tokyo        | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 |
| Yokohama     | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 | 18/24 |

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## North America

|             | High<br>C/F | Low<br>C/F | High<br>F | Low<br>C/F |       |
|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Anchorage   | -9/16       | -5/18      | sm        | 1/34       | -9/15 |
| Alaska      | 21/70       | 8/46       | s         | 20/74      | 8/46  |
| Boston      | 8/46        | 2/35       | s         | 14/57      | 8/41  |
| Chicago     | 17/62       | 8/43       | s         | 16/54      | 8/43  |
| Dallas      | 24/75       | 13/59      | s         | 20/78      | 14/57 |
| Detroit     | 24/75       | 2/38       | s         | 28/89      | 8/42  |
| Detroit     | 14/57       | 8/43       | pc        | 16/51      | 8/48  |
| Honolulu    | 28/84       | 21/70      | s         | 31/88      | 21/70 |
| Honolulu    | 25/79       | 18/61      | s         | 27/80      | 18/66 |
| Los Angeles | 21/70       | 13/52      | s         | 21/70      | 8/46  |
| Miami       | 28/82       | 21/70      | s         | 28/79      | 18/64 |



## THE AMERICAS

## Kevorkian Could Find An Understanding Jury

### Case Will Test Issue of Euthanasia vs. Murder

By William Glaberson  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Prosecutors are at a sharp disadvantage in the first-degree premeditated murder case they filed against Dr. Jack Kevorkian because a jury might find it easy to sympathize with the suffering of the terminally ill, experts in criminal law said.

Dr. Kevorkian was arrested Wednesday in Waterford Township, Michigan. Magistrate Robert Crawford released him the same day, but warned him he would have to pay a \$750,000 bond if he took part in "any homicide, euthanasia, or whatever you call it. Any action used in taking of human life."

Law professors and experienced defense lawyers said Dr. Kevorkian, who has escaped numerous prosecutions, could again argue that the law is out of step with society's desire to help ease the pain of terminally ill people.

Whether assisted suicide, or euthanasia, is morally right or wrong, several of the experts say, jurors are often uncomfortable applying existing laws to such cases.

"The law of murder was not drafted with these sorts of cases in mind," said Franklin Zimring, a professor of criminal law at the law school at the University of California at Berkeley.

That would give Dr. Kevorkian an advantage over prosecutors in a trial in the televised death that Dr. Kevorkian has described as his first euthanasia, legal experts said.

Dr. Kevorkian appears to be acknowledging that he intentionally caused the death of Thomas Youk, a 52-year-old man suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease, whose final moments were shown on the CBS news program

"60 Minutes" Sunday. Several lawyers said that constitutes murder under the law.

But they said that, in a courtroom, the issues would be far more complex. For example, they said, to find premeditated murder jurors generally must conclude that the killer acted with malice aforethought, which is defined as "disregard of human life."

Mark Biras, a former prosecutor who is now at the law firm of Proskauer Rose in Washington, said, "Dr. Kevorkian knows that whole concept on its head because he says, 'Look, I have total regard for life.'" with his assertion that he is helping to ease pain.

That argument, lawyers said, would not likely get far with a judge. But jurors might be attracted to such a claim because of their empathy with the victims of serious illnesses.

Similarly, legal experts said, the courts are likely to be hostile to any claim that Mr. Youk gave his permission to be killed. Courts and legislatures have said that they cannot permit people to approve their own deaths because that would open a Pandora's Box of potential abuses.

But jurors might be swayed by assertions that justice demands that a suffering person be in control over his or her death, said Robert Lawry, a criminal law professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland.

If Dr. Kevorkian were convicted of murder, he could be sentenced to life in prison. The severe sentence, some lawyers said, could help Dr. Kevorkian fight the case.

Even people who disapprove of euthanasia, these lawyers said, could say that it would be irrational to impose on a



Dr. Jack Kevorkian leaving a Michigan court under a \$750,000 bond.

mercy killer the same sentence that would be imposed on cold-blooded killers.

Dr. Kevorkian's strength in court in the past has often come from such sympathies. He was acquitted in three trials involving five deaths, one case against him ended in a mistrial, a judge threw out a murder charge in 1990 and another murder case was dropped in 1992.

#### Criticism of TV Program

Howard Kurtz of The Washington Post reported:

By televising a death that was choreographed for the cameras, "60 Minutes" bought itself a huge audience, a torrent of publicity and some of the harshest criticism ever leveled at the 30-

year-old program. CBS executives insist they performed a valuable service in airing a videotape of Dr. Kevorkian giving a patient a lethal injection. But in the days since the Sunday broadcast, detractors have accused them of turning death into entertainment and giving the doctor's crusade for euthanasia a prime-time platform.

Roman Catholic leaders, joined by Cardinal James Hickey of Washington, have denounced the program and urged a letter-writing campaign.

Hundreds of viewers have called the network, a majority of them with negative comments. Some talk radio hosts, editorial writers and media analysts have been scathing, while others have been supportive.

## Hyde's Staff Preparing Articles of Impeachment

### Only Perjury Count Has a Chance, an Aide Says

By Alison Mitchell  
and Eric Schmitt  
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — As the House Judiciary Committee moves into the final stages of its inquiry, Representative Henry Hyde's senior staff is beginning to draw up three articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton.

A senior Republican official of the committee said that the drafting was in its "very early stages" and that any proposals would have to be circulated for approval to the committee's 21 Republican members. But the three articles that are being considered would allege perjury, obstruction of justice and witness tampering, and, on the basis of the president's repeated assertion of legal privileges, abuse of power.

Mr. Hyde, Republican of Illinois, who is chairman of the committee, is overseeing the work, which is being done by David Schippers, the investigative counsel for the panel's majority, and Thomas Mooney, the committee's staff director.

The committee official who spoke of the drafting Wednesday, on the condition of anonymity, said that as part of the process, aides were looking at the report sent to the committee by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, as well as the Watergate articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon and impeachment cases against three federal judges.

The committee staff is not preparing any version of a censure resolution, even though many in the House maintain that censure could win approval on the House floor and that impeachment cannot. While there have been routine contacts between the committee and the

Republican leadership, Republicans say there is little if any coordination of a common strategy.

Intent on finishing work soon, Mr. Hyde sent a letter Wednesday to the White House threatening to subpoena the president if he did not respond by Monday to 81 questions sent to him by the committee three weeks ago. White House officials say the president will respond Friday.

Mr. Hyde may also ask his committee, after a hearing Tuesday into the consequences of perjury, to subpoena additional witnesses, a Republican committee aide said. And he may soon seek a vote to release documents held under seal in additional boxes that Mr. Starr has sent the committee in recent weeks.

The Judiciary Committee is moving steadily along the path toward recommending impeachment even though moderate Republicans outside the committee and some experienced House Republican aides say they think a floor vote on even a single count of perjury would be too close to call. Any article beyond perjury would be "doomed," one senior House Republican aide said.

Because Representative Bob Livingston, the incoming speaker, has said any lawmaker's vote on impeachment will be a vote of conscience, Republican leaders are not conducting formal counts by the party whip.

But Republicans outside the committee say they expect 15 to 20 of their members to defect, even on a perjury count. That means that five to 10 Democrats would have to vote for impeachment for it to prevail.

The House, where terms expire on Jan. 3, now has 228 Republicans, 206 Democrats and one independent, who usually votes with the Democrats.

## POLITICAL NOTES

### Aide Says Starr Inquiry Might Go On for 2 Years

WASHINGTON — The office of the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, will remain open for business for up to two more years as it wraps up lingering investigations, and prosecutors may consider indicting President Bill Clinton after he leaves the White House, according to a Starr aide.

With criminal charges pending against two Clinton associates, Webster Hubbell and Susan McDougal — and other indictments still possible — prosecutors need more time to complete their work and issue a final report, said Charles Bakaly 54, a spokesman for Mr. Starr.

Mr. Bakaly said it was likely that the prosecutor's office would remain open for a minimum of a year and a half and perhaps two years.

The time would be needed, he said, "even if everybody came in tomorrow, let's say, and accepted responsibility or somehow we were able to resolve the outstanding aspects of the investigation tomorrow."

As some members of the House Judiciary Committee began quietly exploring a possible deal to avoid removing the president from office, the prospect of a criminal indictment against Mr. Clinton has emerged, and Mr. Bakaly's timetable would allow for such a possibility.

Asked whether Mr. Starr was open to the idea of indicting Mr. Clinton after his term ended in January 2001, Mr. Bakaly said, "I think that's fair to conclude, but I don't want to send any signals here."

Mr. Bakaly added, "There's no statute of limitations problem. We have developed a criminal case." (WP)

### Subpoena Seeks Tapes From Tripp's Neighbor

WASHINGTON — A Maryland grand jury investigating whether Linda Tripp illegally taped telephone conversations with the former White House intern Monica Lewinsky has ordered one of Mrs. Tripp's neighbors to turn over any of the secretly made tapes that Mrs. Tripp or others may have given her.

A grand jury subpoena directs Kathleen Ann Maswiler, who lives across the street from Mrs. Tripp in Columbia, Maryland, to bring any originals or copies of tapes with her to a Dec. 10 appearance before the 23-member panel. The subpoena also asks for any memos and other documents "reflecting the existence, location or possession" of the tapes by anyone other than the office of Kenneth Starr.

Mrs. Tripp spent several hours in Ms. Maswiler's house on at least one occasion in January, when the Lewinsky scandal first became public. (WP)

### Quote/Unquote

Charles Yob, Republican national committeeman from Michigan, announcing that he will challenge Jim Nicholson in a three-way race for the national party chairmanship: "I'm off and running. I don't think anybody's going to win on the first ballot. If there's a second ballot, Nicholson's dead." (AP)

### Away From Politics

• Powerful winds and heavy rains triggered mud slides and prompted renewed concerns about flooding as the second storm in three days pummeled the Northwest. Gusts of about 100 miles (160 kilometers) per hour were recorded in Portland, Oregon, while relentless downpours brought record rainfall to Seattle and Olympia, Washington. (AP)

• The futuristic ion engine on NASA's Deep Space 1 probe was back in operation after an unexpectedly successful restart. The engine is necessary for the spacecraft, the first deep-space probe to rely on a solar-powered ion engine for primary propulsion, to com-

plete a planned asteroid rendezvous. (AP)

• White residents of Appalachia die from heart disease at younger ages and in larger numbers than other Americans, researchers said, attributing the phenomenon to a shortage of medical facilities in the poor, rural Eastern region. (Reuters)

• Berkeley, California, is moving to ban sleeping on two avenues from 7 A.M. to 10 P.M. The City Council's proposed no-sleeping measure, aimed at homeless people, includes a provision to make beds available in shelters for drug users. (Reuters)

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## ASIA/PACIFIC

## Former POWs Fail to Win Compensation in Tokyo Court

**The Associated Press**  
TOKYO — A Tokyo court on Thursday rejected a demand for compensation by soldiers and civilians from other countries who were held prisoner by Japanese troops during World War II.

The lawsuit was filed in 1995 by seven plaintiffs on behalf of 20,000 members of veteran and civilian ex-prisoner organizations from Australia, Britain, New Zealand and the United States.

The decision was the first handed down in Japan in a suit brought by former POWs from Allied countries. The plaintiffs said they would appeal.

The plaintiffs demanded \$22,000 each for what they claimed were violations of their rights under international treaties and conventions on the treatment of war prisoners. The total claim was for \$440 million.

The court ruled that the issue was resolved in 1951 with the signing of the San Francisco peace treaty.

The presiding judge, Shigeaki Inoue, said in his verdict that because of the 1951 treaty, individuals or groups could not seek compensation from the government. He said compensation issues must be dealt with on a government-to-government level.

Japan forced POWs to work in shipyards, mines and jungles in violation of international law. Some were also beaten or executed. The POW death rate at the Japanese camps was 27 percent, compared with a rate of 4 percent at Allied camps.

A lawyer for the plaintiffs, Martin Day, said the ruling and the court's refusal to consider testimony on the suffering his clients endured were an insult to the former prisoners.

"We have received a judgment that has been a kick in the teeth," Mr. Day said. "I think the Japanese court today should be ashamed of itself."

Mr. Day said the plaintiffs were willing to take the case to the Japanese Supreme Court. Gilbert Hair, representing the American former prisoners, said his group was also considering suing for compensation for slave labor under an international labor treaty signed by the Japanese in the 1930s.

Mr. Hair said the plaintiffs could also try to sue their own governments for compensation, arguing that those governments did not do enough to further the former prisoners' cause. But he said those suing preferred to be compensated by the Japanese.



Former prisoners of war and civilian internees who were held by Japan during World War II arriving at Tokyo District Court on Thursday. The judge dismissed their demand for compensation for alleged rights violations.

## At Least 108 Die in India In Predawn Train Wreck

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**KAURI, India** — A passenger train rammed into another train in the northern Indian state of Punjab on Thursday, killing at least 108 people and injuring about 150, police said.

The crash occurred before dawn when the Ambala-bound Sealdah Express rammed into derailed cars of the Frontier Golden Mail near Kauri village.

The railroad minister, Nitish Kumar, said a coupling between two cars of the Frontier Mail had broken, derailing the train. Two minutes later, the Sealdah Express crashed into the cars.

Mr. Kumar said 73 bodies had been pulled from the mangled cars, and an additional 35 bodies were being pulled out. There were 1,700 passengers aboard both trains, and the death toll could rise, police said.

"There are still some passengers in the coaches," said P.C. Dogra, the Punjab director-general of police. "Some may be injured, some may be dead."

The Press Trust of India news agency said the railroad authority had ordered an inquiry into the crash.

Police used loudspeakers to reassure those trapped that help was on the way, while residents shouted encouragement. Farmers offered tea, bread, blankets

and sweaters to the victims, many of whom were dressed in pajamas.

Ram Kumar, one of the injured passengers, said: "Most passengers were asleep when the accident took place. I was also asleep on my seat."

"Suddenly I heard a loud thud and I fell down from my seat. I was unconscious and later, when I regained consciousness, I was in the hospital bed."

Pharmacies donated medicine to help the small government hospitals, which were overwhelmed with victims and had run out of supplies. The government prepared to bring in doctors from the state capital, Chandigarh.

Kauri, about 70 kilometers (40 miles) from Chandigarh, is near Khanna, India's biggest grain market town. Ambala is 45 kilometers from Chandigarh.

Despite government efforts to improve rail safety, about 300 accidents occur every year on India's railroads, the largest network under one management in the world. In January, 52 people were killed in a train collision on a foggy morning in the northern city of Lucknow. In August 1995, two trains collided near New Delhi, killing 358 people in the worst train wreck in India's history. More than 12 million people ride 14,000 trains across India every day.

(Reuters/AP)

## Anwar Accused Of Tampering

**The Associated Press**

**KUALA LUMPUR** — Anwar Ibrahim, the former Malaysian deputy prime minister, forced police to produce even stronger retractions from those who had accused him of illegal sex, a former police official testified in court Thursday.

The witness was the latest called in prosecution efforts to prove that Mr. Anwar abused his power last year by forcing police to arrest and obtain retractions from those who had written to authorities accusing him of sodomy and adultery.

Amir Junus, a former deputy chief of police intelligence, said that the original retraction letters were not strong enough to suit Mr. Anwar, who forced him to tamper with them.

Ummi Hafidha Ali, the sister of Mr. Anwar's former secretary, had accused Mr. Anwar of having sex with her brother's wife, Azizah Abu Bakar, the politician's former chauffeur, claimed he was sodomized by his boss.

Mr. Anwar, 51, has denied the 10 corruption and sex charges against him, saying they were fabricated to eliminate his political challenge to Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad.

## SUMMIT: A Hitch in China-Japan Talks

**Continued from Page 1**

nodded and then said that it was a good statement. "I guess the Chinese president was happy with what Mr. Obuchi told him," Mr. Saiki said. "That's our view."

Mr. Obuchi apparently was reluctant to apologize more forcefully to China in part because many members of his Liberal Democratic Party complain that Beijing always tries to exploit Japanese guilt about the past to win concessions from Tokyo. For his part, Mr. Jiang is also in a sensitive political position. One of his predecessors as Communist Party leader, Hu Yaobang, was removed in 1987 in part because hard-liners considered that he had been too friendly to Japan during a visit to Tokyo.

China did not publicly express its discontent Thursday night, but it did manage to extract an expression of Japanese remorse in the joint declaration.

"Japan feels acute responsibility for the grave misfortune and harm to the Chinese people during a certain period of aggression toward China, and we express deep remorse about this," the declaration said. However, the declaration did not use the word "apology," which many Japanese feel is more serious than the word for remorse.

Negotiations over how Japan would refer to the past have been going on with China since the summer, and Beijing had lately been pushing for the kind of apology that Mr. Obuchi gave the South Korean president, Kim Dae Jung, during Mr. Kim's visit last month.

At that time, Mr. Obuchi signed a declaration along with Mr. Kim expressing Japan's "remorseful repentance and heartfelt apology" for having inflicted "unbearable damage and pain on the Korean people."

But when China sought a similar apology, Japan refused. Mr. Saiki said Thursday night that Japan believed the historical circumstances were different, and that a Korean-style apology was inappropriate for China. He noted that Japan had formally annexed the Korean Peninsula, while in the case of China it had fought a war there.

"We have never colonized China, although we did fight on the continent of China, and that is something we have to apologize for," Mr. Saiki said, adding, "But we do not have to issue an apology in writing for China."

Mr. Saiki said that the essence of the apology was the same to both countries, and that it was simply a matter of the form being different. He also denied reports by Japanese news organizations that the delay in issuing the declaration had been caused by last-minute haggling among diplomats about the wording.

Sadaaki Numata, the chief spokesman of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said that the declaration with China was

never intended to be signed by the two leaders.

Japan also refused to follow President Clinton's lead and issue a "three noes" statement about Taiwan: no support for Taiwan independence, no support for a policy of "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan," and no support for entry by Taiwan into international organizations for which statehood is required. However, Mr. Obuchi did say that he did not support Taiwan independence, and that he did regard it as Chinese territory.

## BRIEFLY

### U.S. to Renew Talks With North Korea

**WASHINGTON** — North Korea and the United States will resume talks in New York on Dec. 4 over underground building work in the Stalinist state that could be related to a nuclear weapons program, the State Department announced Thursday.

Charles Karmann, the U.S. envoy who failed to win access to the building site at talks in Pyongyang this month, will head the American side at the four days of talks, which will be held in New York on Dec. 4 and 5 and in Washington on Dec. 7 and 8.

The North Korean team will be led by Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan. (Reuters)

### Nepal and Bhutan In Refugee Talks

**KATMANDU, Nepal** — Nepal and Bhutan will resume talks in January to resolve the issue of repatriation of nearly 100,000 Bhutanese refugees living in camps in this Himalayan state for the past eight years, a Nepalese minister said Thursday.

Interior Minister Govind Raj Joshi, who returned home Thursday after talks with the Bhutanese officials in Thimphu, said both sides had shown a strong commitment to settle the refugee problem.

Relations between the two Himalayan kingdoms have been strained since Nepalese-speaking Bhutanese started fleeing to Nepal in the early 1980s after Bhutan tightened its citizenship regulations. (AP)

### Philippine Rebels Pull Out of Fight

**COTABATO, Philippines** — Islamic rebels agreed Thursday to withdraw from a stretch of highway in the southern Philippines that they had seized, ending four days of fighting in which at least six people were killed.

"I have ordered our forces to clear the highway and withdraw," Al Haj Murad, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front vice chairman for military affairs, said after a meeting between members of the rebel group and Philippine Army officers.

He said the military agreed not to pursue the withdrawing rebels, estimated to number from 500 to 500. (Reuters)

### No Confirmation Of Timor Killings

**DILI, East Timor** — Officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross said Thursday they had not been able to substantiate reports of a civilian massacre in a remote area of the troubled territory of East Timor.

But about 150 locals, with limited supplies of food, are still seeking refuge in a school in the Alas district, 200 kilometers east of Dili, following clashes between Indonesian troops and pro-independence guerrillas. (Reuters)



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## Vajpayee Plays Down Impact Of a Likely Electoral Setback

**The Associated Press**

**NEW DELHI** — With exit polls predicting a setback for his party, the Indian prime minister shrugged off the forecasts for state elections Wednesday, saying the vote would not shake his government.

The elections in four regions were the first political test for the governing Bharatiya Janata Party since it took office eight months ago. A serious defeat could aggravate tensions in Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 19-party coalition.

But Mr. Vajpayee played down the importance of the elections.

"Even if the results go against us, this is not going to affect the government," he said in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh.

The elections were held in the northern region of Delhi, where the federal capital is located; the central state of Madhya Pradesh; Rajasthan, in the western desert; and Mizoram, in the northeast.

The voting mostly was peaceful, although there was a gunfight between political rivals in Madhya Pradesh. Three people were killed and 16 were wounded in that clash, Press Trust of India reported.

Millions of ballots were sealed in iron

boxes and shipped to the capital of each of the four regions, where they will be counted Saturday. Final results will not be known until Sunday.

More than 80 million voters were eligible to choose 626 regional legislators from among 5,000 candidates.

The vote was a key electoral test for the new leader of the Congress (I) Party, Sonia Gandhi, the widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. She campaigned aggressively, as did Mr. Vajpayee.

The elections in Delhi, where Mr. Vajpayee's party holds power, were the most closely watched. One exit poll of 1,500 voters by the private Center for Media Studies forecast that the Congress Party would win two-thirds of the 70 seats in the assembly. A separate poll conducted by state television, Doordarshan, reported the same results.

Increases in vegetable prices were the most prominent issue during the electoral campaigns, and onions became a symbol of protest for the opposition.

Otherwise, pollsters said, most voters appeared to be apathetic.

"This is the most low-key provincial election in 40 years," said N. Bhaskara Rao, whose Center for Media Studies carried out surveys before the balloting in the four states.

## CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

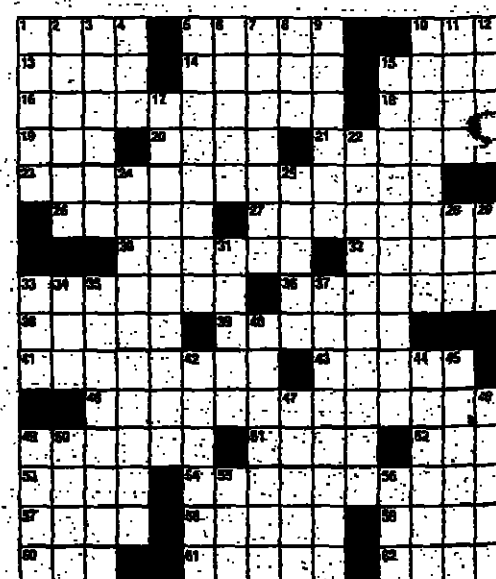
- 1 Synthetic
- 8 Rising star
- 10 Step to the barre
- 13 Have — (verb)
- 14 Private lines, perhaps
- 15 "Judge Dredd" villainess
- 16 The Steppes, e.g.
- 18 Pull (in)
- 19 Dram
- 20 "Kon —"
- 21 Dog
- 22 Jerk's work
- 26 First of Clyde
- 27 Hip
- 30 Popular credit card
- 32 Jacket
- 33 Held on to
- 34 Is part of a think tank
- 38 Stravinsky's "Scherzo à la —"
- 39 Conductor
- 40 Ansemnet
- 41 Immoderate
- 43 Mordant
- 44 Arizona tourist attraction
- 48 The Five — (1950's group)
- 51 Hot spot
- 52 House cat?
- 53 Race place
- 54 Little inventory
- 57 They may be drawn
- 58 Saloon requests
- 59 Bowser's pal
- 60 — neck (horse defect)
- 61 Cerebral killer
- 62 Player's club

## DOWN

- 1 Great: Prefix
- 2 Fugard's "My Children! My Children!"
- 3 It's on the bottom
- 4 So-4 creations
- 5 Agassiz
- 6 Palm Springs, formerly
- 6 Kansas International Airport
- 7 Bar charge
- 8 "The Tonight Show"
- 9 announcer Hall
- 9 Did a double take?
- 10 Like some dreams
- 11 Without warranty
- 12 Without
- 13 Lights up
- 17 Ready for the ride to begin
- 22 Minor
- 24 Chair pieces
- 25 1982 World Cup site
- 28 Third of October
- 29 C.P.R. sites
- 31 Birth cert., e.g.
- 33 — Magnon
- 34 Hit 1964 Murray
- 35 Schisgal play
- 35 Lacking a dividing membrane
- 37 After everyone else
- 40 Malodorous
- 42 Kind of inspection
- 44 "La Loge" artist
- 45 "Viva Zapata!" star
- 47 "Liveness"
- 48 Big name in ring
- 49 Unique
- 50 Confess
- 52 Earth orbiter
- 56 Nat King Cole's "Mojave"

## Solution to Puzzle of Nov. 26

ANTS APER SEPIA  
GORE MARE ORINS  
LEIA ACTORFINCH  
EXPLOREORAKE  
TILERY YES CBS  
STERILE CNOTE  
LAX SOONER  
ARCHITECTWREN  
SCOPES DEE  
UNBOX ONADIME  
REI SARD ORATOR  
NOVELISTCRANE  
JUSTICEJAW ELIAN  
TNOIL COMP RICO  
WINGE KINE SCOW



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## EUROPE

## Spanish Judge Heading Pinochet Inquiry Plans to Examine U.S. Files

By Marlene Simons  
New York Times Service

PARIS — The Spanish judge who wants the former dictator of Chile, Augusto Pinochet, to stand trial, plans to go to Washington to try to see secret U.S. government files, court officials in Spain say.

They say that the judge's plans to build up his case will go ahead, regardless of whether the general continues to be held in detention in London or is set free.

On Wednesday, the House of Lords rejected the general's claim to immunity. That leaves it to the British government to act on the Spanish extradition request; the Spanish judge, Baltasar Garzon, filed the request in mid-October, seeking to

try the general on charges of terrorism, torture and genocide.

Judge Garzon is said to be particularly interested in U.S. government files relating to events of the 1970s, when the CIA and U.S. Embassy personnel were close to the Pinochet regime and knew of the activities of its powerful secret police.

This police force is widely considered to be responsible for the worst excesses of the Pinochet regime, including the kidnapping, torture and summary executions of leftist opponents.

Washington has thousands of secret files from that period, and Judge Garzon is expected to ask for hundreds of specific documents from the State and Justice departments relating to events in

Argentina as well as Chile. He will be making the request under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, which allows for such exchanges and was signed by Spain and the United States. He will also ask to hear witnesses.

His visit would be the second by a member of the Spanish investigating team.

Another judge, Manuel Garcia Castellon, who has since stepped down from the investigation went to Washington last January after the U.S. government indicated it was willing to cooperate. But court officials said that he had made little headway because he was given only documents that were already in the public realm.

In a letter to President Bill Clinton last month, after the arrest of General

Pinochet, 36 members of Congress complained that despite the president's personal promise, the government had been slow to assist Spain in the case. "It is our understanding that the United States has materials and other critical information that will help link Pinochet directly to acts of international terrorism," the letter said.

Unfortunately, the letter said, the Justice Department gave the Spanish judge public documents only and did not elicit important testimony from witnesses.

The Justice Department material stems from its investigation of a car bomb that went off in Washington in 1975 to hunt down leftists and to stamp out what they considered a Communist threat.

Agents of the Chilean secret police prepared and detonated the time bomb, and the former police chief, Manuel Contreras, is serving a prison sentence for the crime.

This killing is one of the events Judge Garzon is interested in. He wants to know whether — and if so, how — General Pinochet was linked to the event. At the time, General Contreras was answerable to General Pinochet.

Judge Garzon is also said to be interested in finding out more details about Operation Condor, a pact that the intelligence services of five South American military regimes made in 1975 to hunt down leftists and to stamp out what they considered a Communist threat.

"Condor practiced international terrorism, they kidnapped people across borders, exchanged prisoners and tortured and secretly killed them," a Spanish court official involved in the investigation said this week. "There is an interest in Condor because it shows the coordination of the crimes."

A declassified cable from the U.S. Embassy in Argentina, dated September 1976 and part of Judge Garzon's files, said that Operation Condor was conceived to carry out joint operations against "leftists, Communists and Marxists" in which special teams would "locate and surveil the target" while other teams would "carry out the actual sanction."

The cable said that Chile was the center of the operation and that other countries, including Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay, and perhaps Brazil, were members. It said that members showed "the most enthusiasm to date" had been Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. Dozens of people were reportedly kidnapped and killed under the plan, including Spanish citizens, two Uruguayan lawmakers, students and political activists.

Judge Garzon wants to know more about the number of victims of the operation and to gather more information about the extent of responsibility of General Pinochet and other senior Chilean and Argentine military officials.

In a parallel investigation, Judge Garzon is also focusing on the fate of Spanish and other victims during the "dirty war" in Argentina between 1976 and 1983, when the military and police forces secretly imprisoned and executed more than 10,000 people in their campaign against leftists. He will also request to see U.S. government documents relating to Argentina.

Human rights workers believe that Washington's files are richest on Chile, though, because of the deep U.S. involvement in that country before and after the military coup of 1973 in which General Pinochet seized power. The administration of President Richard Nixon openly favored the coup, and it helped prepare the climate for the military intervention against the socialist government of Salvador Allende, blocking loans, financing strikes and supporting the opposition press. It is Washington's own role at the time that may inhibit cooperation with the Spanish investigation, some U.S. human rights workers said.

"The U.S. may have more documents linking Pinochet to the Letelier killing and to other events," said Reed Brody, a lawyer with Human Rights Watch in New York. "But the U.S. has been less than interested in cooperating with Spain. If this were a case the U.S. would like to see prosecuted, the response would be more energetic and cooperative."

## PINOCHET: Government Gets Case

Continued from Page 1

From the moment the general was arrested in London on Oct. 16, the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair has kept itself publicly detached, saying that the matter was one between magistrates in Spain and England. The original warrant came from Baltasar Garzon, a Spanish judge who has been investigating atrocities during the "dirty wars" in the 1970s and 1980s in Latin America. The warrant died General Pinochet to the deaths of 3,178 people.

The arrest caught the British by surprise and placed them in an awkward diplomatic position because Chile is a longtime friend and an active trading partner, and it was a valued backer of Britain during the 1982 Falkland Islands War.

Any impulse to rid itself of the unwanted case runs up against the Blair government's commitment to what it calls an "ethical" foreign policy and would bring condemnation from rights groups, the large numbers of Europeans who revile General Pinochet and many members of the governing Labour Party with strong memories of the repressive regime he ran. Mr. Straw himself was a college radical who marched in anti-Pinochet rallies in the 1970s.

Chile has argued that Britain and Spain are interfering in the democratic development of Chile and disrupting its resolve to put its convulsive past to rest in its own manner. "We are not here to protect the dictator of yesterday. We are here to protect and defend our transition to democracy," said Mario Araya, the Chilean ambassador to Britain.

That argument has been picked up here by leaders of the opposition Conservatives, who in speeches in the House of Commons have pointed to the return of divisions and unrest in Chile.

[In Madrid, Reuters quoted an unnamed adviser to Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar as saying the Spanish leader would be "overjoyed" to find an easy exit from the political dilemma.]

Mr. Straw asked the Bow Street Magistrate's Court on Thursday to put off by a week its scheduled Dec. 2 hearing in the Pinochet case.

The extradition process in Britain was once considered the most arduous and time-consuming in the world, and even with reforms enacted in 1989, there are so many opportunities for judicial review that efforts can drag on for years. If the case proceeds at the normal pace, General Pinochet would be unable to leave England for at least a year.

Mr. Straw's first obligation is to declare whether the Spanish case for extradition meets the principal criteria of the 1989 Extradition Act: whether it would be "unjust or oppressive" to order extradition; whether General Pinochet is wanted for serious crimes, ones described as punishable by at least 12 months in prison; whether the offenses are of a "political" nature; and whether the documentation accompanying the request is thorough and authentic.

Even at this preliminary point, General Pinochet's lawyers could challenge Mr. Straw's decision, starting an appeal process that could take the matter back up the judicial ladder to the Law Lords.

If Mr. Straw gives the go-ahead and it survives judicial scrutiny, the matter will go to the Bow Street court for a hearing before the chief metropolitan magistrate.

The magistrate's decision on whether to endorse the extradition request could trigger another series of appeals up to the Law Lords. If these hurdles are all cleared, the case returns to Mr. Straw for a "final surrender" warrant.

Even though the extradition order at that point would carry the courts' approval, Mr. Straw still would have the power to rule it out, citing "oppressive" considerations such as the age or health of Mr. Pinochet. If Mr. Straw authorized the request, General Pinochet could appeal, and for the third possible time, the case could end up with the Law Lords. All these steps are in conformity with the European conventions on extradition.

## Schroeder Under Fire

Tensions Build Up With Coalition Partner And Within His Social Democratic Party

By Roger Cohen  
New York Times Service

BERLIN — Less than a month after he swept into office with a ready smile and talk of a "new middle" that would revitalize Germany, Gerhard Schroeder has lost much of the momentum and goodwill that propelled his ascent.

Slipped at by state premiers, who wield much power in Germany's decentralized system, criticized by his Green coalition partners, attacked by leading businessmen, buffeted from within his own Social Democratic Party, Mr. Schroeder has appeared unable to impose his stamp on the government.

"There is no need to panic," said Peter Struck, the leader of the Social Democrats in Parliament, but the admonition itself clearly reflected mounting concern. Heide Rühle, the party manager of the environmentalist Greens, declared that the country "cannot be governed by the troops of chaos."

At a time when Germany is pursuing a self-confident buying spree in the United States — Deutsche Bank's purchase of Banker's Trust this week follows Daimler's acquisition of Chrysler and Bertelsmann's absorption of Random House — this political uncertainty may appear out of character.

But the reality of Germany today is a streamlined and aggressive corporate sector, acutely aware of the challenges of the global economy, alongside an uncertain social and political model that Mr. Schroeder has vowed to galvanize.

In part, Mr. Schroeder's difficulties stem from teething problems inevitable given the Social Democrats' 16-year absence from power, as well as from the fact that a coalition government with the Greens was widely regarded as unlikely before the September elections, ensuring that few preparations for such a coalition were made.

"They were not prepared at all," said Claus Leggewie, a sociologist close to the government. "Nothing was prepared, and then the program was put together in haste. It does look kind of amateurish."

But at a deeper level, Mr. Schroeder seems to be suffering from the very ambiguities of his campaign. While his ability to appear both as an energetic modernizer and a traditional Social Democrat sensitive to workers' concerns was effective at election rallies, it seems to be proving too wide a stretch for government.

Tensions within the Social Democratic Party burst into the open with the recent publication of a blunt letter to Mr. Schroeder from Wolfgang Clement, the Social Democratic premier of the North Rhine-Westphalia state, a huge economy in itself.

Mr. Clement said the tax reforms proposed by the government were inadequate and would do nothing to reduce unemployment, now running at more than 10 percent. He suggested slashing the corporate income tax level to below 30 percent from over 40 percent, and lowering top tax rates for individuals.

He also lambasted government plans to close tax loopholes for corporations and raise energy taxes, saying the changes would cost businesses about \$17.8 billion. The thrust of his argument, which is also that of big business, was that only a deregulation of the economy would spur corporations to create jobs.

The letter revealed the extent of the chasm between reformist Social Democrats like Mr. Clement and Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine, whose rhetoric has focused more on the widening gap between rich and poor in Germany, the need to spur growth through cutting interest rates and the possibilities of creating employment through a state-sponsored "alliance for jobs" bringing

together labor unions and industry leaders.

"The root of Mr. Schroeder's difficulties is the unresolved questions within the Social Democratic Party," said Werner Weidenfeld, a political scientist. "There are two streams, the traditionalists and the modernizers, and it is still unclear who will decide between them. The result is a turbulence that may last."

For the moment, Mr. Schroeder, whose essential political talent is that of a very effective communicator, at once polished and unrefined, has appeared to want to remain above the fray.

This policy of aloofness may spare him the worst of the vitriol flying between the wings of his party, but at some point it appears inevitable that the chancellor will have to intervene more forcefully or face growing criticism for indecisiveness.

Confusion has also been evident outside the critical economic area.

One of the more resolute commitments of the Red-Green coalition is to change Germany's restrictive nationality laws, allowing more of the 7 million foreigners living in the country to become German citizens. "Germany is a land of immigration" has been among the most forthright slogans of the Greens.

The commitment to change the law for foreigners already living in Germany re-



Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder speaking Thursday at the EU in Brussels.

mains intact. But Otto Schilly, the Social Democratic interior minister, infuriated the Greens last week by saying that the "limits of Germany's capacity to take new immigrants has been exceeded."

The statement reflected an economic reality: The German social security system is under intense strain from a fast-growing population, and the steady arrival of new immigrants has tended to accentuate that strain.

But Mr. Schilly's words also illustrated the political reality that Mr. Schroeder's coalition is very much a work in progress, full of rough edges, murky policies and ominous strains.

**Immigration Debate Heats Up**  
Mr. Schroeder was criticized by the

Greens on Thursday for saying Germany had no room for more immigrants, Reuters reported from Bonn.

Greens party members and foreigners groups said comments Mr. Schroeder made to the weekly newspaper, Die Woche on Wednesday could stir up xenophobia.

Mr. Schroeder said that "Germany can't cope with additional immigration" and firmly stood behind Mr. Schilly.

"Anyone who says that the limits have been passed is only fueling fears and making themselves, involuntarily, key witnesses for future xenophobic resentment and aggression," said Rupert von Plotnitz, justice minister in the state of Hesse, in an interview with the newspaper Bild.

## FRANCE: Limits of Charity

Continued from Page 1

icans are good philanthropists even though they think socialism is a dirty word."

A French foundation executive, who did not wish to be named, scathingly framed the historic assumption behind this habit: "Private money is impure, it's immoral. Only the state has pure money."

Why this is so is a matter of debate and speculation among France's vigorous community of philanthropic, charitable and humanitarian activists. They lament that a society enlightened enough to have invented Doctors Without Borders and Doctors of the World and to have pioneered programs to feed the homeless from restaurant kitchens should be, on average, less generous than other Western countries.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, they lay much of the blame at the feet of the state, and notably the French tax system, which offers feeble incentives for giving.

Tax deductions for charitable contributions in France are limited to 6 percent of annual taxable income (the figure is 50 percent in the United States). The deduction for most gifts to nonprofit organizations is 50 percent; a two-year-old revision of the tax code offers 60 percent deductions for contributions to associations that feed, clothe and doctor the poor. But even those deductions are limited to annual gifts under 2,000 francs, or about \$400.

The attractions of a 60 percent deduction, according to an analysis of the latest available information, for 1996, have meant handsome benefits for those nonprofit groups that help the neediest. But, perversely, that sector apparently has drawn off donations that used to go to other nonprofits, such as cultural, sporting, environmental and professional groups whose donors are entitled only to 50 percent deductions.

The average French gift to a nonprofit organization is about \$120 a year. The number of donors has slid gradually



Ali, a homeless man who lives under a Paris highway bridge, drinking donated soup. Eight people have died in the recent French cold spell.

during the 1990s, while the number of people volunteering their time to charitable and other such organizations has gradually increased.

In an interview, Marc Gentilini, president of the French Red Cross, offered a blunt assessment of the problem: "The French state is incapable of encouraging giving. Giving is suspect."

He attributes this to an institutional obsession with "fault-finding" — the citizen who wants to make a contribution is assumed to be dishonest, and he has to prove his honesty. This doesn't promote citizenship, and it doesn't promote charity.

Jacques Malet, who conducted a series of recent studies of French giving habits for the Fondation de France, the umbrella association that advises nonprofits here, said there is another element of the French income tax system that discourages giving.

Only about half of French households have income levels that require them to pay taxes (as distinct from a vast array of supplementary "social charges" that cover health care, retirement and such). For the half of the population that are not taxpayers, there is no incentive at all to give to charity or church — other than simple altruism, that is.

Because Mr. Malet's studies rely on information provided by tax inspectors, they cannot assess what is reportedly a large habit of generosity by French people of modest means. In France, as in the United States, the less wealthy give greater proportions of their income to nonprofits of all kinds, and to charities especially, than those at the upper end of the income scale. The closer you are to neediness, those who study these habits explain, the more likely you are to be generous.

A more prosaic factor in dismal giving trends here was a massive embezzlement scandal at the heart of France's largest cancer research organization in 1996. The organization's contributions fell off by more than half the following year, and other French nonprofits have been affected by rekindled public mistrust in a sector's capacity to manage their contributions honestly and effectively.

Mr. Gentilini, Mr. Malet and others also reflected on another trend they find disturbing: The few people who make tax-deductible gifts, about one-quarter of the one-half of the population who pay taxes here, are inundated with mailings and other competing appeals to their generosity.

## BLAIR: Prime Minister Makes Historic Plea for Peace in Irish Parliament

Continued from Page 1

"Let us not underestimate how far we have come, and let us agree that we have come too far to go back now," he said, seeming also to be speaking directly to the IRA, which has refused to disarm, when he added it was "time for the gun and the threat of the gun to be taken out of politics once and for all; for decommissioning to start."

"I am not asking anyone to surrender," he said. "I am asking everyone to declare the victory of peace."

Decommissioning is Ulsterspeak for disarmament.

The IRA and its political wing, Sinn Fein, insist, accurately, that the peace agreement specifies only that disarmament will take place by the spring of 2000. But leaders of Northern Ireland's Protestant majority insist that some disarmament must start soon, before Sinn Fein is allowed to participate fully in the new gov-

ernment structures to be created, giving Catholics more political power in the North.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, sat unsmiling in the visitors' gallery in the Parliament chamber in Leinster House. He is an elected member of the Parliament in London but refuses to take his seat because that would involve an oath of loyalty to the monarchy.

Mr. Adams's claim that Sinn Fein is independent of the IRA is a politically necessary fiction, in the view of the vast majority of Irish and Northern Irish people. He says the IRA's 16-month cease-fire is convincing evidence that they want peace.

"I reflect on the sheer waste of children taught to hate," Mr. Blair said, "when I believe passionately children should be taught to think."

"No one should ignore the injustices of the past, or the lessons of history. But too often between us, one person's history has been another person's myth."

"The old ways are changing between London and Dublin," he continued. "And this can spur the change and healing in Northern Ireland, too. The old notions of Unionists' supremacy and of narrow nationalism are gradually having their fingers pruned from their grip on the future."

Only a small minority of the Irish lawmakers can speak Gaelic, one of the two official national languages, but most know enough to applaud Mr. Blair's attempt, when he said, "Go raib naí naí againn," roughly, "From the bottom of my heart."

They also enjoyed the prime minister's statement that, "Ireland, as you may know, is in my blood."

His mother, he said, was born in County Donegal "above her grandmother's hardware shop. She lived there as a child, started school there and only moved when her father died, her mother remarried and they crossed the water to Glasgow."

## BRIEFLY

## Germans Charge Ex-Gestapo Agent

STUTTGART — German prosecutors said Thursday they had charged a 79-year-old man with involvement in the Nazi massacres of 17,000 people in Ukraine and Poland more than 50 years ago.

The former Gestapo secret police official, identified in media reports as Alfons Goetzfried, an ethnic German born in Ukraine, has been in investigative custody in the southwestern German city of Stuttgart since March.

He stands accused of aiding and abetting 17,000 murders, mostly of Jews, in 1942 and 1943, and of having killed 500 people himself.

After World War II, he spent 13 years in a Siberian prisoner-of-war camp. Prosecutors said the suspect had moved to Germany from Kazakhstan in 1991.

(Reuters)

## Czech Curb on Pork 'Regretted' by EU

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said Thursday it regretted a Czech decision to restrict imports of pork from the EU and defended its own increase in export subsidies for pork as legitimate under global trade rules.

"It's a regrettable measure, particularly as the discussions are still going on," said Garry Kiely, spokesman for the EU agriculture commissioner, Franz Fischler.

The Czech government Wednesday decided to scrap a preferential import duty of 15 percent on EU pork imports, raising the tariff to nearly 41 percent.

(Reuters)

## Russia Candidates Might Be Screened

MOSCOW — Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin said Thursday that Russian authorities wanted new powers to check election candidates for criminal connections after the murder of a liberal parliamentarian.

Mr. Stepashin is heading the investigation into the killing last week of Galina Starovoitova in St. Petersburg, where liberals fear some of their rivals in a local election next month have links with criminals.

The interior minister said he would ask for "law enforcement agencies to be given the right to check connections between future candidates and the criminal world," according to the Itar-Tass news agency.

(Reuters)

## Cokie Roberts for Rotterdam?

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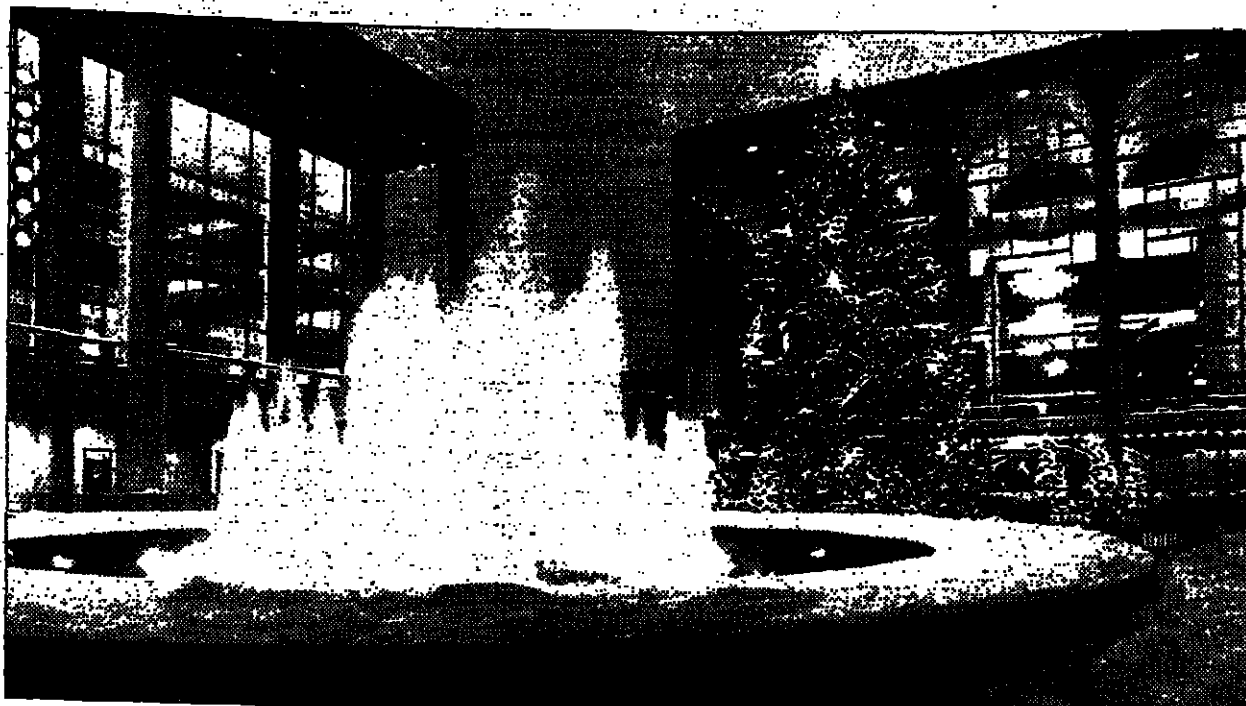
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# HOLIDAYS IN NEW YORK



The annual tree lighting at Lincoln Center will take place on Dec. 3. Beverly Sills, chairwoman of Lincoln Center, hosts the festivities.

## EVENTS FOR CELEBRATING THE SEASON

Always exciting, New York puts its best face forward for the holidays. A stroll down Fifth Avenue from 59th Street typifies the kind of delights that greet visitors. The world's largest menorah, an electrically lit behemoth commemorating the festival of lights, faces FAO Schwarz, the world's most famous toy store. At 57th Street, giant snowflake beckons shoppers to the festive decorations in windows of nearby stores like Tiffany and Cartier.

A block away, window shoppers at Barneys can see what legendary window dresser Simon Doonan has dreamed up

this year (his most notorious display: a Simpson's Nativity). Further down, a huge decorated spruce tree towers over the ice skaters below at Rockefeller Center. Even the majestic Public Library at 42nd Street gets into the spirit, with giant wreaths around the guardian stone lions at the entrance.

Everything about New York seems more festive at this time of year, from the quiet, meandering streets of Greenwich Village to the pulsating nightclubs in West Chelsea.

Listed here are highlights of what's happening around town over the next weeks.

- **Dec. 3:** Tree lighting: The Lincoln Center tree lighting is always a popular event, partly because performers like vibed legend Lionel Hampton show up to provide music and carols, along with characters from "Sesame Street" and a host of others. Lincoln Center Plaza.
- **Dec. 4-6:** Holiday crafts: The Seventh Regiment Armory on Park Avenue is the site for the nation's premier crafts fair. Tel.: 1 800 649 0279 (in the United States).
- **Dec. 5:** "Amahl and the Night Visitors": The Little Orchestra Society performs Menotti's children's opera about the Three Wise Men — with a top ticket of only \$35. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 971 9500.
- **Dec. 6:** "A Joyous Christmas Concert": The Choir of St. Bartholomew's Church and American Boychoir perform carols in this magnificent Midtown landmark. Tel.: 1 212 378 0248.
- **Dec. 12-13:** "A Baroque Holiday": The New York Chamber Music Symphony performs holiday favorites. Alice Tully Hall. Tel.: 1 212 262 6927.
- **Dec. 13:** "Holidays": The Boys Choir of Harlem sings with the New York Philharmonic. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.
- **Dec. 13:** "Holiday Four": A look at all of the pavilions at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the heavenly concert by the Tutti Harps group. Tel.: 1 718 622 4433.
- **Dec. 17:** "A Cathedral Christmas": Excerpts from the "Messiah" and a carol sing-along at the world's largest Gothic cathedral, St. John the Divine. Tel.: 1 212 316 7449.
- **Dec. 18:** "The Messiah": You've never really heard it until you've heard it ringing off the walls of St. John the Divine. Tel.: 1 212 316 7540.
- **Dec. 18-19:** "A Pops Holiday Celebration": Jazz great Skitch Henderson leads a concert of hum-along favorites. Carnegie Hall. Tel.: 1 212 903 9750.
- **Dec. 21:** "Holiday Spirit from England": The King's Singers perform madrigals. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.
- **Dec. 23:** "Too Hot to Handel": An update of Handel's Messiah. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.
- **Dec. 27:** "Klezmerfest": If you've never heard this jazzy traditional Jewish music, catch the New York Philharmonic

jamming with the Klezmer Conservatory Band. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.

● **Dec. 31:** Midnight run: Believe it or not, thousands of people love to dress in outrageous costumes, including black tie and tails, for a foot race through Central Park. Tavern on the Green. Tel.: 1 212 860 4455.

● **Dec. 31:** "The Viennese Tradition": The New York Philharmonic performs waltzes and selections from "Der Rosenkavalier" and "Die Fledermaus" under Kurt Masur's baton in a New Year's Eve gala, with featured soprano Deborah Voigt. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.

● **Through Jan. 3:** "The Nutcracker": George Balanchine's definitive staging of the Christmas classic for the New York City Ballet makes its annual appearance. New York State Theater. Tel.: 1 212 875 5570.

● **Through Jan. 7:** "Christmas Spectacular": Radio City's world-famous extravaganza, with a full-life Nativity, razzle-dazzle special effects and the Rockettes in a high-kicking "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers." Radio City Music Hall. Tel.: 1 212 247 4777.

● **Through Jan. 10:** The Big Apple Circus: For three months, Damsch Park in Lincoln Center becomes the city's resident circus. Tel.: 1 212 268 2500.

● **Through Jan. 10:** Solstice Garden: The Conservatory Garden of the New York Botanical Garden becomes a winter fantasy, with rows of intricately lit pear trees leading to hedges fashioned from dry plants and a Gozzoli Tree with gilded fruit and marble orbs. Tel.: 1 718 817 8700.

● **Through January:** Christmas crèche: Dozens of Neapolitan crèche figures adorn a large spruce in the center of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's medieval collection. With Rockefeller Center, this is the city's most popular Christmas attraction. Tel.: 1 212 535 7710.

## SHOPPING FOR HOTEL DEALS

Some of the city's finest are offering seasonal packages.

Finding a hotel room in New York during the holiday season can be as difficult as buying tickets to "The Lion King." But don't despair: The New York City Convention & Visitors Bureau's Peak Season Hotel Hotline can book hotel rooms during this period. The hot line includes available rooms in all price categories. Call 1 800 846 7666 in the United States. From abroad call 1 212 582 3352 or fax 1 212 924 7935.

Even though rooms are at a premium, some of the city's finest hotels offer seasonal specials. The following hotels are among those offering specials, subject to availability.

● **Doubletree Guest Suites**  
Rates in December start at \$325 for a two-room suite and breakfast. A package offers guests dinner at Center Stage Cafe and tickets to either "Rent" or "Beauty and the Beast" for only \$85 per person. 1568 Broadway (47th Street). Tel.: 1 212 719 1600

● **Fitzpatrick Manhattan Hotel**  
From Dec. 20 to 26, rates at this East Side business traveler's favorite are \$189 for a single and \$219 for a one-bedroom suite — a savings of over \$100 a night. 687 Lexington Avenue (56th Street). Tel.: 1 212 644 1985

● **Hotel Intercontinental**  
Until Dec. 17, rooms are only \$199 (normally \$325-\$385); from Dec. 17 to 29, rooms are only \$189 — with half off on everything purchased in the hotel. 111 E. 48th Street. Tel.: 1 212 755 5900

● **Hotel Plaza Athénée**  
From Dec. 14 until the end of February, the Winter Package offers a \$410 room for \$295, including continental breakfast or parking. 37 E. 64th Street. Tel.: 1 212 734 9100

● **The Lombardy**  
This small, elegant hotel (marble bathrooms, seamstress, data-ports in rooms, etc.) charges from \$280 for a single room to \$360 for a suite. 111 E. 56th Street. Tel.: 1 212 753 8600

● **The Mark**  
This Upper East Side hideaway has a Holiday Special from Dec. 20 until Jan. 10: One-bedroom suites, usually \$675, cost \$399; deluxe rooms with two twin beds, usually \$450, cost \$299. 25 E. 77th Street. Tel.: 1 212 744 4300

● **Morgan's**  
Hip and chic Murray Hill is a favorite of the glitterati. During the week of Dec. 20, a \$295 room costs \$225. 237 Madison Avenue (37th Street). Tel.: 1 212 686 0300

● **New York Hilton**  
With a booking of a double room for \$212 Dec. 19-30 and for \$222 in January, two people get tickets to the must-see Jackson Pollock retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art across the street. For \$389 for a double, a couple can eat at Tavern on the Green in Central Park or see one of seven Broadway shows — or be pampered at the hotel salon. Basic

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## NEW YORK ON THE WEB

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The New York Convention and Visitors Bureau's site includes information on hotels, conventions and more. Hyperlinks offer a range of New York City-related sites.
- <http://www.nytoday.com/>  
On-line since June, this site by The New York Times offers information on events, arts and entertainment, restaurants, shopping, sports and leisure.
- <http://newyork.citysearch.com/>  
The site has listings for arts and entertainment, restaurants and hotels, shopping and services as well as several search options.
- <http://timeoutny.citysearch.com>  
Time Out New York is the most comprehensive local guide — in fact, it's a good idea to pick it up on a newsstand after arriving in town — and the Web site complements the weekly's listings.



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## EDITORIALS/OPINION

## Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

## Justice for Pinochet

A British appeals court on Wednesday greatly bolstered the possibility that Augusto Pinochet of Chile will face justice — a quarter-century after most of the crimes of his military coup. The 3-to-2 decision that General Pinochet's status as a former head of state does not give him immunity in Britain makes it likely that British courts will agree to Spain's request for his extradition. The decision will rest in the hands of Home Secretary Jack Straw. Unless General Pinochet's health worsens drastically, Mr. Straw must resist the temptation to decide that he is too frail to stand trial.

The Law Lords ruled that the charges against General Pinochet, including torture and hostage-taking, cannot be considered official functions

and therefore the immunity normally granted to a former head of state does not apply. The decision settles the most important legal issue involved in Spain's extradition request.

Britain almost always complies with requests from European nations and requires little examination of the factual evidence of the case. Mr. Straw must not heed the false argument that trying General Pinochet would imperil Chile's democracy. The general's extremist supporters are noisy but few. Chile's military and business leaders know that the economic growth and respect they enjoy would vanish if democracy fell. Mr. Straw should let British justice, and then possibly Spanish justice, take its course.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Turkey and the Kurds

In a short time, the case of the Turkish Kurdish leader arrested in Rome has been transformed from a tricky visa-and-extradition issue into a tentative opening of the larger Kurdish question to a new burst of international inquiry. It is a moment that should not be lost in anger and fumbling. Perhaps something better for Turks as well as Kurds can come of it.

At the moment, it is all going too fast and far for the Kurds. Of the four main countries where Kurds live — Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran — Turkey, a NATO ally striving to run a democratic system, has the deepest claim on Western loyalties. The Turkish government and many Turkish people are outraged by any dealing that seems to legitimize what they regard as a terrorist separatist group — the PKK, or Kurdish Workers Party — whose leader, Abdullah Ocalan, created the crisis by landing in Rome. The apparently spontaneous Turkish boycott of Italian goods is but one response to the new Italian government's refusal immediately to extradite Mr. Ocalan to Turkey.

Yet it is clear that Turkey's own response to the Kurds over the years has failed to satisfy the interests of either side. Few informed people doubt that the Ocalan party has a terrorist pedigree; it is to maintain consistency in its anti-terrorist policy that the United States favors returning the PKK leader to Turkey for trial. But the Turkish government has conspicuously failed to focus its pressures and sanctions on the criminal part of its 30 percent Kurdish population.

In the course of battling Kurdish

rebels, the Turkish army has leveled and wasted thousands of villages in southeastern Turkey and has taken many lives. Law-abiding middle-class Kurds have been denied full political and cultural expression. Turkish accusations notwithstanding, Turkey is being kept out of Europe, to its immense resentment and rage, not because of an ancient European prejudice against Muslim Turks but because its government curtails Kurds' human rights on a broad scale.

Turkish pressure on Syria, Mr. Ocalan's longtime haven, is what put him in Italy's hands. His unexpected arrival has kindled thoughts in parts of the Italian and German governments of transforming the Kurdish issue from an armed struggle into some sort of a negotiation. The idea would be to combat terrorism on one level, to strengthen Kurdish rights on a second, and to facilitate Turkey's now stalled entry into the European Union on a third.

The path is full of pitfalls. If Mr. Ocalan himself is an improbable participant because of Turkish objections to his terrorist record, then he might still become an object of talks. For instance, his extradition might somehow be linked to human rights improvements by the Turks. More political and cultural space and more economic development might be sought for non-PKK Kurds. At some point, the role of Kurds outside Turkey needs to be stirred in. Other ideas are in the air. NATO allies who tip-toe around the question, as the United States tends to, in the end do Turkey no real favor.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

## Don't Censor the Net

U.S. District Judge Lowell Reed of Philadelphia has wisely issued an order temporarily preventing enforcement of a new federal law restricting free speech on the Internet. The Child Online Protection Act, which was tucked into the omnibus budget bill passed by Congress last month, could greatly harm the right of adults to see or read anything that might be deemed unsuitable for children.

The measure would require commercial sites on the World Wide Web to set up barriers to prevent anyone under the age of 17 from gaining access to material deemed "harmful to minors," a vague standard that could well include R-rated or other controversial materials that are perfectly legal and nonpornographic. Operators of Web sites containing such material must ask users to provide a credit card or adult identification number, or risk criminal penalties.

The new law is touted as a way to protect children from Internet pornography. But it would not apply to overseas Web sites, so children would still have access to smut on-line. Nor would the act inhibit businesses that actually

sell X-rated materials on-line. Such businesses already ask for credit card payments, so they would be protected from prosecution under the act.

Instead, the primary effect would be to discourage the free dissemination of constitutionally protected material. For example, an on-line bookseller who includes free excerpts of a sexually descriptive novel on a Web site might run afoul of the law and be threatened with prosecution because he did not screen out children.

The Supreme Court last year struck down as overly broad the 1996 Communications Decency Act that made it a crime to send or display indecent material on the Internet where youngsters might see it. The new measure is no improvement. Even the Justice Department, which is now defending the law, has raised serious questions about its constitutionality.

The way to protect children from adult materials is through parental monitoring and guidance, not by locking down the Web for everyone. The courts should quickly scotch this attempt to censor Internet speech.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Other Comment

## A New Era for Torturers

The (Pinochet) verdict will have vast and unpredictable consequences for international relations. It illustrates clearly that tyrants and torturers may now be vulnerable whenever they set foot abroad.

Within the next few months, most of Europe could have asserted the right to try torturers and the architects of genocide, wherever those crimes occurred.

—Christopher Lockwood, writing in The Daily Telegraph (London).

## Help Women to Grow Food

The United Nations estimates that women produce 80 percent of the food consumed in Africa, 65 percent in Asia and 45 percent in Latin America. Women hold the key to ending hunger in the world's poorest communities, yet in most developing countries they still sow, water, weed, harvest and process their crops by hand, and their share of land resources and mechanized farm implements remains negligible.

—Thelma Awori, writing in The Los Angeles Times.

## Who Will Stand Up for Menaced UN Workers?

By Iain Guest

WASHINGTON — According to a report before the Security Council, 23 UN staff members have lost their lives since July of last year, and another 33 have been taken hostage or abducted. That does not count the 31 killed in plane crashes. Nor does it count locals who work for the United Nations, 60 of whom are detained or missing.

This is one of the great silent scandals of our time.

Relief workers, says the report, are "threatened, robbed, beaten, held hostage, stabbed, raped or murdered." It would be hard to tell from the muted response. Governments are quick to protest UN wastage and withhold their UN dues, but only 21 governments have committed themselves to the protection of aid workers by ratifying the Convention on the Safety of UN and Associated Personnel.

The number of serious security incidents reported to the United Nations since 1992 totals 162. Only one perpetrator has been brought to justice.

This lack of concern is less than surprising, since governments are increasingly responsible for the crisis.

Relief workers have always been an easy target. Last year, Hutu rebels took

machetes to a group of UN human rights monitors near Cyangugu in Rwanda, and left their heads on the hood of the car. This paralyzed the monitoring mission and gave the Hutu a virtual license to kill west of Kigali.

That kind of savagery is almost to be expected from groups which place themselves outside the law. Not so, one would think, with governments. Yet this report shows clearly that more and more would-be governments view humanitarian aid workers as legitimate targets as they cling to power or bludgeoned critics into silence.

Earlier this year, after President Laurent Kabila of Congo accused UN agencies of supporting the rebellion in the east, UNICEF and UNHCR officials were threatened, abused and even arrested. One local UNICEF official, Bernard Nsabimana, remains in detention. All UNICEF field offices are provided with post-exposure treatment for the AIDS virus since the rape of a staff member in Congo.

In Afghanistan, local employees of relief agencies have been lashed for

disobeying Taleban rules. International staffers were publicly slapped and expelled for objecting to discrimination against their women colleagues.

In Rwanda, Tutsi employees of the United Nations were among the first to be killed during the 1994 genocide. Hutu employees were among the first to be arrested, when the Tutsi took control. Many are still in jail.

In southern Sudan, where UN officials are battling starvation and war, the United Nations is forbidden to establish its own communication system, which could greatly improve safety.

In the Middle East, scores of local employees of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees have been detained in the past year by Syria, Jordan and Israel. Fifteen were detained by the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip.

The United Nations can do little on its own. The peacekeeping mission in Georgia proposed to set up a 294-strong protection unit, but this was vetoed by the two warring parties. The United Nations has set up a trust fund to pay for improved security for relief workers, but only Norway has contributed. The United Nations even

lacks funds to hire two stress counselors for traumatized relief workers.

As often in the humanitarian business, there are no easy answers. The ultimate recourse is to withdraw, as relief agencies have done from Congo, Afghanistan and Burundi.

The bigger dilemma is whether foreign officials should demand special protection, when those whom they have come to help are so helpless. Many are deeply uncomfortable at the idea.

Yet they agonize alone. There is no sense of urgency from the UN Security Council, and nothing to suggest that governments will bring those responsible to account.

It is time for leadership from the Security Council, which often relies on humanitarian aid workers to bail it out of hot spots. At this rate, there will be no more relief operations for the Council to exploit.

The writer, who worked for the United Nations in Cambodia and Haiti, is a member of the Advocacy Project, an association which seeks to build support for humanitarian principles. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

## An Ominous Day for Democrats in a Confused Russia

By Fred Hiatt

WASHINGTON — So now they have buried Galina Starovoitova. Those who

mocked her in life have piously eulogized her. The authorities have issued their usual empty promises to capture her assassins. Her allies among Russia's dwindling band of liberals have vowed, once again, to cease their squabbling and unite.

No one can quite shake the frightening feeling that Russia has crossed a dangerous line. The warnings of impending fascism that in the past seemed hysterical or contrived have, since Miss Starovoitova's execution-style slaying, a chilling ring of plausibility.

She herself had been one of the persistent warners. "One cannot exclude the possibility of a fascist period in Russia," she had said after the 1993 elections. Hours before her murder, she had requested a Kremlin meeting on the growing dangers of political extremism.

She was Russia's "most con-

sistent defender of democracy, human rights and interethnic cooperation," said Paul Goble, an American authority on her part of the world.

Miss Starovoitova was a democrat and an associate of Andrei Sakharov when Boris Yeltsin was still climbing the ladder as a Soviet apparatchik. In 1990, when Pravda was still Pravda, she had the courage to sue the newspaper for libel.

She happened to be in Britain when retrograde plotters staged a coup against Mikhail Gorbachev in 1991. Over the BBC's international service, she helped rally Russians to the side of democracy; in London, she helped rally Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to speak out against the coup.

The incident prompted inevitable comparisons in the British press of Russia's Iron Lady to her own. But Miss Starovoitova was only partly made of

iron. She was ambitious and at times cocksure, but also warm-hearted and open.

In recent days she had led a fight against one Communist legislator's particularly vicious anti-Semitic comments and against the Communist Party for refusing to condemn them.

Here is not the first political murder in Russia's modern turbulence, of course. More than eight years ago an anti-establishment priest, Father Alexander Men, was axed to death in the woods outside Moscow. In 1994 a young reporter investigating corruption in the Defense Ministry, Dmitri Khodov, was blown up. The popular television journalist Vladimir Listiev was gunned down in 1995. None of these murders has been solved.

Hundreds of bankers and businessmen have been killed, too. The price of a contract murder in Russia today is said to

be \$2,000. The murderers are almost never caught; and when someone is arrested, no one can be sure whether the police have apprehended the guilty party or are simply settling scores. The Federal Security Service, descendant of the KGB, has in essence been "privatized by Communists, Nazis and oligarchic structures," claims Boris Nemtsov, until recently Russia's deputy prime minister.

Yet even against this backdrop, Miss Starovoitova's killing in the entryway of her apartment building last Friday night struck most Russians as different. She was a woman, first of all, and the flip side of Russian sexism is a gallantry that found this cold-bloodedness hard to accept.

She seems to have been uninterested in making money. She traveled without bodyguards. She had no Mafia, no protective structure. She was unafraid, eager to point out corruption wherever she saw it.

In recent years, for all of Russia's problems, there was hope to be gleaned from the evolution of a political process. For the first time in history, Russians were trying to settle differences through elections and debate, not force and fear. Even today, that remains true. And we do not know who killed Miss Starovoitova, or why? Most likely, we never will. But if politicians now are to be gunned down for speaking out, Russia's democracy cannot survive for long.

Some took solace in the thousands who turned out for the funeral, waiting hours in the cold to affirm their faith in democracy. Others found gloomier portent in the Communists' postmortem calls for a suspension of civil liberties.

"The way to freedom turned out to be far harder than we thought," Miss Starovoitova said not long ago. It could serve now as her epitaph.

The Washington Post.

## Stop the Mean Stalling on Expansion of the European Union

By Flora Lewis

MADRID — When the Soviet bloc collapsed, people in Eastern Europe facing the monumental problems of transformation to liberal democracy sometimes asked, "Where can we find a king like Juan Carlos of Spain?"

The king did play an important role in Spain's remarkable modern success story. But the country had already gone through a quiet evolution beneath the surface of the dictatorship. There was widespread determination not to fall back into the disaster of civil conflict.

Spain showed that lessons of a bitter past can be learned. It also helped a lot that, once Spain had proved its democratic intentions, it was welcomed into the Western community of NATO and the Common Market. Economic integration into mainstream Europe mattered a great deal. When the king acceded to the throne in 1975, per capita income was a little over \$4,000. Now it is \$14,000.

So now, Spaniards interested in foreign affairs can say that they understand and sympathize with Eastern countries whose hopes of joining the European Union keep being put off to a nebulous future.

It is fully accepted that the six countries which have now begun to negotiate accession — Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Cyprus — will certainly be invited to join eventually. Further, the others eager to follow will be accepted sooner or later. "There's no question whether,

only when and how," said a senior Spanish official, echoing the Brussels establishment.

And yet it is like Alice in Wonderland's croquet game: the hoops keep moving away when you approach. That is not for lack of sincerity among EU members who say they really don't intend to keep any qualified candidates out. It is for lack of will to accept the implications, the necessity for reform within the existing institution to enable it to function effectively with many more member states.

There is an essential contradiction here which has not been resolved. Sometimes the United States is cited as an example of a parallel. That is false. The United States is a federal state. The EU is not a state, and so far does not intend to be, although people disagree about how near to move to federalism.

The changes and adjustments that the candidate countries have to make are huge and difficult, much more so than when Spain joined because the Union has evolved and added weight in many spheres. On Jan. 1, 11 of the 15 members will launch a single currency, abandoning their traditional money.

But the reminders of how hard it is come from the insiders and are clearly a kind of excuse to justify putting off the far smaller changes that they have to make themselves.

Negotiations are complex and no doubt will take several years, but there will also be provision for a transition period of

perhaps 20 years to permit step-by-step adjustment.

Meanwhile, decision and assurance are of great importance, not only for psychological reasons of knowing what to expect but also because they constitute an economic factor. It was once that it was clear that Spain would soon be a member of the Common Market that foreign investment really poured in.

The Eastern countries making the huge effort to prepare themselves deserve similar encouragement. It is mean of Western Europeans to say, "They soon be in NATO, which provides security, so there's no need to rush with the EU."

The decisions that the Union needs to make are basically about political weight and money. The number of commissioners per country and the weight of votes necessarily has to be adapted, and that means that some countries are going to lose votes. The amount of money available to help poor regions will have to be divided, reducing Spain's share for example, or the total greatly increased, which the net contributors such as Germany, Austria and Holland flatly refuse.

They are digressing, but as fierce defenders of their national interests, and the interests of their community and its future members are neglected. This is not the meaning of the European Union, founded to assure mutual benefit and long-term advantage for all. It is time to get serious about enlargement.

Flora Lewis.

## A Long Way Yet to Go in Bosnia

By Frederick Bonnard

BRUSSELS — Misery and destruction in Kosovo have overshadowed the Bosnian crisis, which led to incomparably greater damage, loss of life and upheaval. That crisis brought intervention by the international community, which is now extending its political reach in the Balkans.

This new form of power projection is liable to have far-reaching consequences. It has some similarities with the colonialism of a previous era. There are strong echoes of a civilizing mission, albeit without the former exploitative aspect. Instead this new mission is liable to become a heavy and increasing burden.

The UN representative in Bosnia, Elisabeth Rehn, recently came to NATO to stress the need for the continued presence of NATO's stabilization force. It is 33,000 strong, and its six-month mandate comes up for renewal at the end of the year. Mrs. Rehn estimates the requirement at four years. The force is likely to be needed a good deal longer.

The Dayton arrangements launched an ambitious program of reconstruction combined with nation-building. The international community took charge, in the shape of a multiplicity of institutions.

A Contact Group of six countries — Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the United States and Russia — assumed overall responsibility. The United Nations participates with its mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe oversees the electoral process. The European Union and the World Bank run a multitude of projects.

Numerous nongovernmental and charitable organizations are active. NATO continues to control the separate military forces

of the three ethnic groups. A high representative, Carlos Westendorp, was appointed to coordinate these activities.

The task is monumental. The end of the war saw some 150,000 dead, countless injured, and 2 million people (half the population of Bosnia) displaced. Sixty percent of housing units, 30 percent of schools, 30 percent of hospitals and 60 percent of livestock were destroyed. Roads, railways, bridges and water and energy supply were severely damaged. Perhaps 6 million unexploded mines were spread through villages and fields. A large part of the population was entirely dependent on humanitarian aid.

Help was rushed in. Donor funds were established, and reconstruction began at all levels. More than 450,000 refugees have returned, and an 80 percent unemployment rate has been reduced to 50 percent.

A vast amount of work remains. The major task, however, is political. The international community is trying to convert a totalitarian, Marxist system into a market-oriented economy at the same time as melding together three bitterly antagonistic peoples.

Mutual suspicion and hatred remain, but a basic framework of common institutions has been established. Some laws on a central bank, customs and common tariffs have been adopted. But endemic corruption would have to be eliminated and new laws enforced to attract external investment, which is at present virtually nonexistent.

After considerable battling, there was agreement on a common flag and currency; and national license plates now prevent immediate identification of car owners' ethnic adher-

ence, thus providing greater freedom of internal movement. Common driving licenses and a single customs service remain to be adopted.

An international police task force is to train and equip the national and local police forces. But 2,057 unarmed policemen from 43 countries with very different methods and traditions will take a long time shaping the indigenous police organizations into the desired law-abiding forces.

The political aim to transform the country into a multi-ethnic, tolerant, democratic society along Western lines remains far from achievement. At the present rate of progress, the international community seems set to remain for decades.

The costs, for Bosnia alone, amount to \$9 billion annually, and they will increase as such activities are extended to Kosovo, and later perhaps further afield. So far, no intervention troops have been lost in combat, but this eventuality will also have to be faced.

The big question is whether the populations of the contributing countries will be willing to continue to bear the burden if they cannot see tangible results. Leaders will have to persuade them that the cost is minimal in comparison with that, in humanitarian as well as economic terms, of war, havoc and mass population exodus.

But outsiders will also have to rethink their proposed solutions for the peoples of the region. For it is they who have to be brought to abandon deep-seated mutual mistrust and to cooperate with each other in the move toward a more unified Europe based on civilized values.

The writer, editorial director of NATO's 16 Nations, an independent military journal, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

## IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

## 1898: Motor Carriages

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] Sir Edward Bradford hopes to find in motor carriages one of the main factors in solving the problem of the congestion in London. He says: "Should electric carriages come generally into use, the effect of the traffic of the metropolis will be marked, as such vehicles occupy but a little over one-half the space of that of a similar vehicle drawn by a horse. From a sanitary point of view, also, a diminution of the number of horses in the streets is a desideratum."

## 1923: Faith in Russia

NEW YORK — Prince Felix Yusupoff and his wife, Princess Irene, a cousin of the late Tsar, arrived here to sell the family jewels. He believes that the Russian revolution, like everything else, happens for the best, saying: "Nothing hap-

pens without a cause. Russia, like Christ, was crucified for the sins of the world; and will be resurrected. Since all the world is evil, the world ought to be very patient with Russia. In Russia there is still faith."

## 1948: Irish New Start

DUBLIN — The Irish Daily approved the second reading of the "Republic of Ireland" bill. The bill cuts Eire's last legal tie with Great Britain by repealing the External-Relations Act. Under the External-Relations Act, Eire's trade treaties were approved and her foreign envoys appointed in the name of the British King. External Affairs Minister Sean MacBride said: "The traditions and the ideals of the Irish people for liberty simply could not be reconciled with loyalty to the British Crown. By breaking that connection we are beginning a new and happier chapter in Irish life."

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Internet address: <http://www.ihb.com> E-Mail: [ihb@ihb.com](mailto:ihb@ihb.com)

Editor for Asia: Michael Robinson, 5, Cuscus Road, Singapore 11909 Tel: (65) 472-7769 Fax: (65) 774-2234  
Mex. Dir. Asia: Nigel J. Oakes, P.O. Box 1201, 101 Jolly Road, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 252-1188 Fax: (852) 252-1189  
Gen. Mgr. Germany: T. S. Khan, Frankfurt 15, 60325 Frankfurt Tel: (49) 69 727230 Fax: (49) 69 727230  
U.S. Office: 130 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003 Tel: (212) 755-8800 Fax: (212) 755-8075  
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## OPINION/LETTERS

## Why Does America Resist Prosecution of Tyrants?

By Kenneth Roth

NEW YORK — This has been a bad year for tyrants. War crimes courts for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia are up and running. A treaty establishing a permanent international criminal court won support this summer. Now Augusto Pinochet, who epitomizes the use of political violence to gain power, has found that his self-conferred amnesty extends no farther than the reach of his army's guns.

In a landmark ruling on Wednesday, the British Law Lords rejected immunity for the former Chilean dictator, giving the green light for his extradition to Spain. Any human rights criminal surveying the scene would conclude that his prospects were dimming.

Symbols of this new legal order include Colonel Theoneste Bagosora, the mastermind of the Rwandan genocide, who fled to Cameroon only to be arrested and surrendered to the international tribunal, and Abdullah Ocalan, the murderous Kurdish rebel leader, who has had to flee from Syria to Russia to Italy, where he now faces the possibility of trial or extradition for his war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The U.S. government has been ambivalent about the changing landscape of international justice. It supports the Rwandan and Yugoslav tribunals. But it was one of only seven governments — including those of Iraq, Libya and Sudan — to vote against the

international court. And it remained disappointingly silent during the critical weeks before the Law Lords decided whether General Pinochet could be extradited to Spain.

Washington's disquiet has two principal sources. First, it fears that these legal developments might unfairly jeopardize Americans. Second, it worries that they might make it more difficult to reach peace agreements or to persuade tyrants to step down. Neither fear is justified.

Some crimes are so heinous that those responsible can be tried anywhere. But the crimes subject to universal jurisdiction are limited to the most severe atrocities — offenses such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Other human rights violations such as censorship, discrimination and restrictions on labor rights, while contemptible, do not give rise to universal jurisdiction, meaning that the people who commit them are not subject to international justice.

The crimes of universal jurisdiction are clearly defined. Genocide and war crimes are spelled out in treaties. Crimes against humanity were defined at Nuremberg and in subsequent court rulings to involve certain severe acts of violence that are widespread or systematic, whether committed through peacetime repression or in time of war.

Clearly it is not U.S. policy to

PROVE IT!



commit these horrendous crimes. So who should fear prosecution? Despotism such as Idi Amin of Uganda, Raoul Cédras of Haiti, Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, José Efraín Ríos Montt of Guatemala, even Fidel Castro of Cuba (for the many summary executions he ordered shortly after assuming power).

But will the concept be used to harass democratic leaders who have at worst a few human rights peccadilloes to their record? No. Universal jurisdiction does not extend that far, and there is no prospect that it will.

Some fear that Pinochet-like prosecutions will upset democratic transitions. But General Pinochet's arrest has not dis-

rupted Chilean democracy. Indeed, the elected president felt that democracy was so secure that he left the country at the height of the drama for a trade mission.

The Dayton peace accord shows that it is possible to negotiate peace with war criminals — in that case, President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia — without granting them amnesty from prosecution. Indeed, the indictment of the Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, by marginalizing them politically, helped make the accord possible.

Won't some tyrants cling to power rather than risk prosecution? The truth is, most dictators only give up power when the

erosion of their domestic and international support makes it impossible for them to maintain power. Efforts to prosecute them for their crimes will hasten that process of delegitimization.

What will make the system of international justice work is multilateral muscle. France, Switzerland and Belgium now have backed up Spain with extradition warrants for General Pinochet. The United States needs to state clearly and publicly that it, too, supports the idea of holding tyrants accountable for their crimes.

The writer is executive director of Human Rights Watch. He contributed this column to The Washington Post.

## One Traveler's Fantasy: An 'In-Flight' Rebellion

By Geneva Overholser

ON THE TARMAC. Anywhere — You are deep in the center of a very large aircraft, waiting to take off.

You were engulfed, when you entered the plane, by a cloud of very hot, moist air. You noticed that nothing was stirring.

The other passengers were oddly quiet. Slack, semiconscious, they seemed somehow oppressed. You took your seat — a middle seat.

Now, a new passenger boards. Not yet acculturated, she sizes up the soporific state of the plane's

interior and its occupants, and opts for humor. "Are they pumping heat into this thing?" she cracks.

No one laughs. The woman next to you is very large. Her generous hip borders yours beneath the armrest — on which her arm rests. She has on a flowing jacket, which flows over the armrest onto your forearm.

The man on the other side is larger still. He has on a thick tweedy jacket, the arm of which occupies the other armrest. He is snoring lightly. Now and then he rouses himself, looks around and gives an aggrieved sigh before lapsing back into his stupor. The sigh feels cool on your hand.

His seems to be the right response to the ordeal you are all being subjected to. It is impossible to read, to write, to do anything you would normally do on a plane. It is impossible even to think clearly. Hibernating seems the best option.

Positioning your face under the weak stream of air leaking from the overhead nozzle, you try to enter that state. Your head lolls. But soon, despite your best efforts, an alternative form of behavior begins to take shape in your mind. A compulsion is building. You picture yourself pulling out of your sluggish state, unbuckling your seat belt, springing up and shouting: "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

You imagine your cabinmates joining you in this revolution. First a brave few, soon all of them, row by row, each breaking the bonds and springing free. A hopeful feeling arises in your breast as you consider this rebellion, the rightness of it — surely a more logical response

than paying to be slowly steamed into oblivion. Then the man in front of you pushes his seat back into your knees. You are now jammed into the thick, heat-radiating padding of your chair. Every inch of your body is in contact with some dense, hot fabric.

It is 10 minutes past departure time. You begin to fantasize about the oxygen mask in the panel above you. What if it were suddenly sprung free? Would the oxygen flowing from the mask be cool?

All at once the pilot comes on. His voice, incongruously, is cheery. He says that we must have noticed "the fellows" up front.

There are a few technical matters being attended to. Nothing serious. The delay shouldn't be long — maybe 20 minutes. (TWENTY MINUTES! Would he call 20 minutes in hell brief?) "We invite you to sit back and relax," he says.

Sit back and relax! The man is utterly heedless of the stupefied misery of the hordes arrayed in serried ranks behind him. The passengers paw weakly, ineffectually, at the little nozzles above them. Nothing is emerging now. The air is stifling. From time to time, someone throws a pleading eye at a passing flight attendant. They walk briskly by. One stops briefly to offer a forced, "Don't you worry: Once the engines begin..."

At long last, unexpectedly, salvation comes. "Arm doors for departure," says the loudspeaker. Our release is at hand. The engines start up. Cool air flows fast and forceful from above. The passengers awaken like fairy tale princesses from a deep sleep.

Chatter begins. Books come up from their supine position in laps. We have been imprisoned, but now we are free. Drinks will come, movies will be shown, food (well, something, anyway) will be served. We will be on our way, and we will forget our misery.

But what about next time? The notes for this column are on a Northwest Airlines ticket folder. But you, dear reader, will recognize the scene from another flight, another airline, another destination.

How do they get away with it? Next time, rebellion!

Washington Post Staff

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Clinton and the 1996 Election

In "Clinton's Highest Crime: Stealing the '96 Election" (Opinion, Nov. 24), William Safire has framed the Clinton scandal machine in the proper context.

Mr. Starr's tactical blunder was to assume that the public shared his moral outrage. But the president's sycophants have succeeded in defining the Lewinsky matter as consensual sex between two adults, which strictly speaking it was not, and as an offense about which any gentleman would lie. Mr. Starr therefore fails to justify the harsh penalty of removal from office.

Bill Clinton's defenders also argue that Republican extremists will stop at nothing

to reverse the electoral will of the American public. But, if Mr. Safire is correct, then the electoral will of the American people was criminally obtained.

Regardless of whether the disclosure of Mr. Clinton's abuses would have produced a different election result, this corruption sullies American democracy.

JIM FISHER,

Wassenaar, Netherlands.

As I recall, Mr. Clinton outpolled Bob Dole quite handsily in the 1996 election. Further, he has been and continues to be a better president than Mr. Dole could have been. I wish people like Mr. Safire and Kenneth Starr could understand that their

disliking a person, or even their serious moral opposition to a person's manner, thoughts, words, deeds, clothing or success, does not give them leave to distort truth, due process or civility in their zeal to bring about that person's destruction.

JEREMY SAXON,

Prague.

## Kissinger and Pinochet

In response to "U.K. Lords Rule Against Pinochet" (Nov. 26):

With the detention of Augusto Pinochet and the prospects of a world community that takes greater responsibility with respect to human rights violators, one won-

ders what might happen to Henry Kissinger, one of the architects of the coup that brought Mr. Pinochet to power. What will become of him when next he ventures beyond the borders of the United States?

Perhaps he could be both a star witness and a co-defendant in a Pinochet trial?

MICHAEL F. DUNN,

Copenhagen.

## Nothing to Celebrate

In response to "Carlos Ends Hunger Strike" (Nov. 25):

What a shame.

BRIAN J. CAMPBELL,

Wechelderzande, Belgium.

## BOOKS

## OPEN SECRET

Gay Hollywood 1928-1998

By David Ehrenstein, 372 pages, \$25. Morrow.

Reviewed by Kevin Allman

WITH its promise of sociology and scandal in equal doses, David Ehrenstein's "Open Secret" seems like a book published at just the right moment. After all, the love that once dared not speak its name is now the juicy cud of a million talk shows, and every week brings a fresh installment of "As the Closet Crumbles," with each born-again homosexual eager to tell all to God and Oprah.

Ehrenstein's timing couldn't be better — or more problematic. Attitudes are changing by the minute. "Basic Instinct," with its icepick-wielding lesbians, was a hot-button story in the gay community when it came out in 1992 — but as the journalists Lindsey Van Gelder and Pamela Brandt have pointed out, today it looks as dated as "Reefer Madness."

"Open Secret" never reaches any particular conclusion or thesis, which isn't surprising. But Ehrenstein, a veteran Hollywood critic and reporter (whom this reviewer knew slightly when we both worked for the Advocate years ago) knows his subject, and he has some pungent things to say about an industry that prides itself on its liberal heart but has banker's blood in its veins.

Hollywood has always been filled with homosexuals, and vast amounts of gelt and puffery have been expended in hiding that from a public that seems to care less than the moguls think it does. After Confidential magazine reported that Tab Hunter had once been arrested at an all-male "pajama party," Hunter regained a box-office draw. One year

later, a London reporter referred to Liberace as a "quivering, giggling, fruit-flavored, mincing, ice-cream-covered heap of mother love," and the pianist sued and won with no damage to his career. The lesson here seems to be that scandals have always been survivable — as long as the star is still bankable.

While it gives an overview of yesterday, "Open Secret" is most concerned with how the past illuminates the present, in a time when "outing" no longer means a Sunday drive. Ehrenstein doesn't out anyone himself, but he doesn't shy away from discussing celebrities whose appeals for privacy aren't always consistent. Jodie Foster, he points out, refuses to discuss her romantic liaisons, citing her right to a personal life, yet the actress was hardly shy about cooperating with People magazine on a cover story about her pregnancy and single motherhood. Notes Ehrenstein, early: "Apparently childbirth is less 'personal' than dancing."

You can't talk gay Hollywood without talking Ellen, of course, and much of "Open Secret" is dedicated to dissecting the over-dissected DeGeneres. Ehrenstein is admirably gimlet-eyed about the comedian's public coming-out (an event as strategized and staged as any other political campaign), but he seems to place the blame for the cancellation of "Ellen" on network squeamishness rather than on the fact that the show was only intermittently funny and never drew strong ratings. Ironically, sophisticated "straight" sitcoms, such as "Seinfeld" and "The Simpsons," have handled homosexuality more humorously and casually than strained "gay" shows like "Ellen" or "Will & Grace."

Perhaps that's because the press seems incapable of treating gayness offhandedly. Ehrenstein says, "Unlike

race or gender, religious belief or political persuasion, sexual orientation isn't viewed by the fourth estate as a neutral characteristic." As in the past, it's the tabloids that are leveling the playing field. It's the checkout-line press that prints front-page stories on Rosie O'Donnell's "galpal" as blithely and breathlessly as they do on Kathie Lee Gifford's latest marital tribulations, while traditional reporters get tongue-tied or avoid the subject entirely.

Mainstream journalists, Ehrenstein suggests, are still trying to figure out the boundaries, even as celebrities go public in ways that poke fun at the whole idea of coming out. As Nathan Lane told an interviewer last year: "I'm 40, I'm single and I work in musical theater — you do the math. What do you need, flashcards?"

And "coming out of the closet" is an increasingly old-fashioned notion because so many young Hollywood talents were never there to begin with. "I couldn't look any dykier," says the comedian Les DeLaria, who has moved from gay club audiences to mainstream movie roles and Broadway.

There's always been a place in Hollywood for gays who play by the rules: open secrets have never been a barrier to talent when there's money to be made. But if "Open Secret" makes one point, it's that no one knows just what those rules are any longer. After all, in a particularly rich bit of irony, the man who signed off on the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy has now been outed more thoroughly, publicly and humiliatedly than any homosexual.

Kevin Allman, who reported on the entertainment industry from Los Angeles for 10 years and whose latest mystery novel is "Hot Shot," wrote this for The Washington Post.

## BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

WHIST is the ancestor game of bridge, and two centuries ago Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord, a Foreign Minister for various French governments including that of Napoleon, was an enthusiast. He once asked a young man if he played whist, and on receiving a negative answer showed dismay: "What a dull old age you are saving up for yourself!"

Today, many older people would agree with that assessment. At a stage in life when many activities are more difficult, a regular bridge game is something to look forward to. It provides intellectual effort in a social setting, with verbal and mathematical skills getting a workout.

One of the oldest active players in the New York area is Dr. Sidney Sadolsky of Riverdale, the Bronx, who celebrated his 95th birthday in September. Recently, play-

ing at the Bridge Deck in Scarsdale, New York, he opened the South hand with two no-trump and played there.

After a low club lead he captured the jack with the king. Making eight tricks was fairly easy, but he wanted the overtricks that would furnish match points. The normal play in diamonds was to cash the ace, but he chose to lead low. West took the king and cashed the ace-queen of clubs in the hope of running the suit. East discarded the heart nine, and West shifted to that suit.

South captured the heart queen with the ace and cashed the diamond ace, uncovering the bad split. The position was now as shown at right.

South now cashed his club nine, throwing a spade from the dummy, and East was finished. A diamond discard

would give South two extra tricks, and a major-suit discard would set up a winner for a second squeeze.

Dr. Sadolsky made 10 tricks, and may well be the first nonagenarian to execute a progressive squeeze to gain two tricks.

NORTH

♠ 5 4  
♥ 7 6  
♦ Q 10 9  
♣ —

EAST

♠ J 10 8 2  
♥ K  
♦ J 8  
♣ —

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 7  
♥ A J 2  
♦ K 9 7 5  
♣ —

WEST

♠ —  
♥ —  
♦ —  
♣ 8

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding: North: 1NT, Pass, Pass, Pass. East: 2NT, Pass, Pass, Pass. West led the club six.

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# Leisure

## India's Painted Mansions

The Power and Faded Glory of Shekhawati

By Celia W. Dugger  
New York Times Service

**M**ANDAWA, India — The promise of an oasis in the Thar desert of Rajasthan lured us off the beaten path. A travel agent assured me and my family that a four-hour drive would take us from New Delhi to the small town of Mandawa. Once there, we would stay in an enchanting castle from the time of the maharajahs and wander through crumbling mansions richly adorned with images of kings and Hindu gods, gramophones and Victorian touring cars.

But four hours into the bone-rattling journey, Mandawa was still nowhere in sight, and it began to seem more mirage than oasis. After the state of Haryana, into Rajasthan, the roads became even more rutted and pitted. Loping caravans of camels and herds of sheep made picturesque roadblocks that regularly challenged the braking skills of our driver, Pan Singh. The sage and dun landscape was only occasionally brightened by yellow wildflowers and the crimson turbans of men trudging along the roadside.

Finally, six and a half hours after we set out, we arrived in Mandawa, in the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan, several hours' drive from the state's usual tourist draws, or an airport, for that matter. As we pulled into the grand square of Castle Mandawa, once the home of Rajput royalty and since 1980 a hotel for the intrepid, we felt that we should have been riding in on elephants instead of clambering out of an Isuzu Trooper. To our great relief, the place immediately began to cast a spell on us all.

We went first to our suite, reached by a series of narrow stairways, courtyards and passages. It was romance incarnate. A four-poster bed was surrounded by

scalloped, alabaster arches and enclosed by lacy curtains that fluttered in a breeze cast by a ceiling fan. A big window seat, which looked out over the square, made the perfect spot to read a book.

Then it was back to the colonial veranda. There, courtly young men dressed in white kurta pajamas served us scrambled eggs, toast, french fries and fresh lime sodas. Fortified and with dusk nearing, we set out for a walk, led by Tejpal Singh, a guide on the Castle's staff. We threaded our way along winding, sandy alleyways past the once magnificent havelis, stately houses built by Marwaris, the famed traders of Rajasthan, who have spread out across India and to become some of the subcontinent's most successful entrepreneurs. Originally, they profited from the camel caravans that passed through Shekhawati along the great trading routes bearing spices and sandalwood, silks and saffron.

The local merchants — upper-caste Hindus and Jains — who built the havelis in the 19th century hired artists to paint them with images whimsical, fantastical, erotic and sacred. The mansions have an abandoned, decayed look now. Venetian in the grandeur of their faded glory. The fierce, sandy desert winds, the monsoons and time itself have effaced some of the paintings and softened the indigos, greens and reds.

The descendants of these rich men now live in Calcutta and Bombay. The havelis are mainly inhabited by aging chowkidars, or caretakers, and their extended families, who have often resided in them for 50 years or more. They welcome tourists and are grateful to those who offer a modest tip for the privilege of a peek inside.

To walk through Mandawa is to step back in time. There are very few cars or trucks. Women on foot balance wily

stacks of kindling on their heads. The snoco village houses are washed in pastels of sky blue, mint and rose.

On the exterior wall of the Ladia Haveli, on the square, a steam train puffed along under a large painting of an elephant, which had a small barred window cut away in its belly for the haveli's residents to peer through. At the Saraf Haveli, where two barefoot girls in grimy party dresses scurried after each other, the grubby walls of the interior courtyards had fanciful paintings of a motor car and a flying machine.

**THREE KILOS OF GOLD** And in the Jhunjhunwala Haveli, the courtyard was strung with clotheslines draped with ancient sheets, emerald and pink saris and men's trousers. The owner, Rajhuwar Dayal, a clothing retailer, welcomed us into a spacious, sensuously paint-encrusted room. "There are three kilos of gold in the paintings," he said. He proudly waved to an image of a blue-faced Krishna dancing with his wife. The room was cast in a warm glow from small stained-glass windows of lime green, royal blue and deep red, their jewel tones echoing the fabulous royal ornaments once made for the princely courts of an earlier era.

Back at the Castle, we headed to a lovely interior courtyard that had been turned into a magical stage set for dinner. Tables laid with red tablecloths and flickering candles were scattered across the moonlit lawn. Lights in fretted stone containers edged the balconies and walkways.

Guests ate from a plentiful Indian buffet and watched a campy, entertaining sideshow that thrilled the Italian, French and German tourists, their cameras snapping and video cameras whirring. A beautiful dancer in flowing orange chiffon picked up a 100-rupee



A Mandawa haveli, many of which were built in the 19th century and painted with images whimsical, erotic or sacred.

note on the ground with her teeth and never upset the tower of seven pots that teetered on her head. A harny young man blew great puffs of fire from his mouth, like the Wizard of Oz. And a boy danced with a python around his neck.

Kesri Singh, the imposing, genial proprietor, who is himself a descendant of the raja of Mandawa, opened the castle to visitors in 1980 with just six rooms, and has since renovated 65 more, some of which used to be stables for the horses. No one, he told us, is trying to preserve the havelis that are the area's biggest tourist draw. "This area is quite neglected," he said. "It has no powerful spokesman."

The next morning, we decided to take

a look at Fatehpur, another town known for its havelis. "This boy will take you," Kesri said, gesturing to a middle-aged man who wore his Dick Dastardly mustache with a flourish. We all climbed into the Trooper for the 40-minute ride to Fatehpur along a single-lane road. Many a jeep and tourist bus, heavy with Indian passengers on their rooftops, hurried past us.

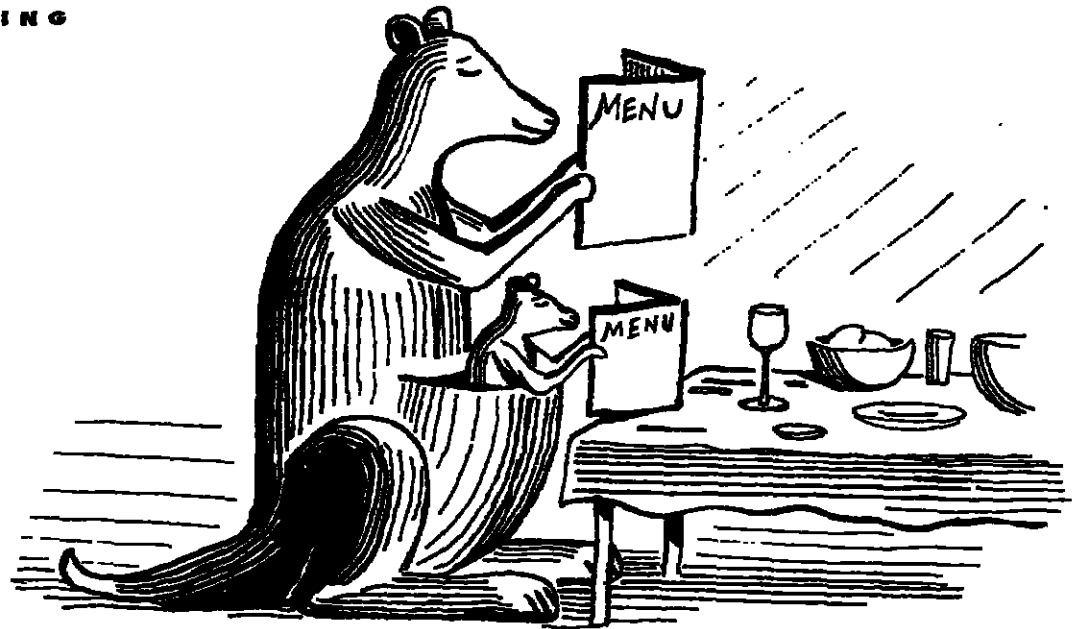
**F**ATEHPUR is bigger than Mandawa and not as charming, but it does have some wonderful haveli paintings, with the ancient and the modern brushing shoulders, and the mark of the British Raj in the faces on the walls. At the Bhaisamal Kedia Haveli, the

chowkidar, Bhanwar Singh, showed us portraits of Queen Victoria and King George in the entry foyer.

We found that almost every block boasted a haveli. The Nan Lal Desai Haveli boasts paintings on glass of murti of maharajahs; in the Bhagat Ram Jalan Haveli, long-necked camels galloped across the walls.

But many of the havelis are in a terrible state of decline. We stood opposite an abandoned one, its doors blocked by piles of garbage and earth, its fine stone screens almost invisible beneath a thick coating of grime. "There are 100 havelis in Fatehpur," said Riddimal Rajput, a young guide who had attached himself to us, "and 75 are locked up."

### DINING



David Semeroff

## A Defining Moment in Food

By Patricia Wells  
International Herald Tribune

**S**YDNEY — If I am fortunate, it happens about once a year. It is what I have come to call the Defining Moment in food. I all but stop midbite, and realize that I am in the presence of greatness. The room shakes. The most recent defining moment came in the Grange Restaurant in the Hilton International Hotel in Adelaide, Australia.

During a monthlong dining tour that included some of the best spots in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, it was the Malaysian-born Chinese chef Cheong Liew's love poem to the palate that seemed to rocket me to another planet.

During the six-course tasting menu, Liew — who has been credited with the fusion of Eastern and Western flavors during the 1970s — provided food that fed the spirit, the soul, the body, and with each dish-and-wine pairing, I felt as though I was in the privileged presence of a genius who had complete mastery and control of his ingredients.

Like a musician with perfect pitch, this chef has an uncanny talent for balance, strength, harmony, nourishment. His food, which applies Asian methods to European food, has an extraordinary density of flavor, contrast of texture and a way of illuminating each ingredient without camouflaging the others.

So, his food is immensely satisfying.

(When Stephanie Alexander, a top Australian chef, tasted Liew's food for the first time she announced "I had just better stop cooking.")

### SHARK IN A POUCH

Such bold and complex dishes as shark's-fin pouch in venison consommé, spiced with tarragon, is a perfect example of his creative genius: A pasta-pouch filled with a sherry-tinged shark's-fin soup floats atop a rich venison consommé.

One is advised to consume most of the warming consommé first, then burst the pasta pouch filled with the soup, wild mushrooms, chicken and ginger. A garnish of tarragon makes this the perfect yin-yang dish, with the heat of the game and ginger, the coolness of shark's fin in a single, dramatic bite. Set off with a glass of Lustau Jarama Fino sherry, the dish creates a complete circle of flavors.

Another adventurous dish, red roas-

ted barramundi (a firm Australian fish) teamed up with green chili, coriander, snow-pea shoots and calamari shavings, makes for a memorable meal that pleases all the senses, with its herbal aroma, dense flavor, visual appeal and burst of sensations. You could almost hear the sound of the sea in the dish. Paired with an Evans and Tate semillon, it was a dish to savor and remember.

Using Liew's romantic, almost ornate cuisine as a starting point, one can easily see that Australia — which inherited a drab Anglo-Saxon diet not at all fitting to the island's climate or ethnic diversity — is in full flourish.

With a strong foundation of adventurousness, chefs, eager diners and a wildly expanding wine industry, there is nothing to hold Australia back. A visit 10 years ago covering the same territory suggested that there was promise. Today's Australian cuisine surpasses that promise.

The energy and sense of humor suggest that anything is possible here. Take the names of modern Australian restaurants — Salt, Dish, Tables, The Loose Box, MG Garage (yes, in an auto showroom) Fuel (yes, in a gas station), Café Sweethearts, France Sour, J'Fabs (for the initials of the names of the owner's five children), Nudel Bar, Fishface, The Raving Prawn, The Little Snail, Medium Rare — and you see this is a nation that does not take itself too seriously.

The names of Australia's wines tell you a lot about the Australian sense of humor as well as lighthearted irreverence: RBJ Theologium, Dead Man's Hill gewurztraminer, Diva sangiovese, Abbot's Prayer merlot cabernet, Nine Popes, Chapel Hill The Vicar, Hill of Grace. But it is no laughing matter that Australia boasts some 800 wineries, most producing very high-quality wines. By the year 2010 Australia hopes to produce 15 percent of the world market in volume (and more by value) putting it fourth behind Spain, France and Italy.

Today one finds a lot of substance in Oz. As the Australian food writer Cherry Ripe points out, Australia is a European culture in an Asian-Pacific location. With chefs whose heritage include Malaysian, Japanese, French, British, Greek, Italian and native Australian, true fusion cuisine is not only possible but perfectly natural. The chefs are also in the midst of creating their own trademark style, one that reflects the ethnic populations, the seasons, the oceans, the hills and the lifestyles of this vast nation.

As with much of the rest of the mod-

ern world, the food of Australia is ingredient-driven, and by that I mean that the chef chooses to honor the prawns from the sea, the chicken from the barnyard, the fruits and vegetables from the garden, making them taste as much like themselves as humanly possible.

There is an Australian look to food as well, large white plates serving as lovely, clean palettes for the chef's artistry. The Australians understand wine and food pairing better than most, with perfect matches almost every time.

As the Australian food authority Maggie Beer noted, "We are learning from other countries' mistakes." And so this ecologically aware nation that is banning the caviar of the protected sturgeon, and pioneering fish farming as the waters' bounty is increasingly depleted, is also creating a lively exchange between growers and restaurateurs, experimenting but with an intelligent eye.

Traveling from city to city, it was clear that chefs leave no stone unturned. They are unrestrained by tradition and offer a cuisine that is at once vibrant, fresh, innovative and well crafted.

**T**HEY do make mistakes. All too often, I found chefs insisting on an East-meets-West cuisine when they had no technical ability to carry it out. It seemed that menus were filled with such items as Vietnamese Pho soup or Indian curry or Japanese sushi because the chef assumed diners expected this exotic blend. All too often, the dishes fell flat and were far less exciting than the real thing in an ethnic restaurant.

I hope to grab those jars of truffle oil from every Australian chef's hands. The powerful oil is used in excess, often marring otherwise excellent dishes. Likewise, such appealing ingredients as arugula (almost always served with indigestible, weed-like stems intact) are used as a crutch, and Western-style breads often appeared simply awkward in many fusion menus.

Some practices — such as opening oysters beforehand and washing them under running water — seem simply naive and lazy. And a government that bans the creation and the import of raw-milk cheeses is surely misguided.

The high praise is fitting for perhaps only a small portion of restaurants. As Alexander remarked: "In Australia, if you know what you are doing, you can have the best of everything every day. But you will be alone." The circle, it is clear, needs to be enlarged.

## Around the Tables of Australia

International Herald Tribune

The following is a list of the best restaurants visited during a month-long tour, with notes on some favorite dishes.

### PERTH

The Loose Box Restaurant, 6825 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring. Tel: (61-8) 9295-1787.

If Michelin gave stars in Australia, Alain Fabregues's The Loose Box would have three. It is the epitome of French perfection and attention to detail. I loved the colorful goat cheese, truffle, mushroom, eggplant, tomato and capscium terrine for its brilliant flavors and welcoming texture.

Fraser's, Fraser Avenue, King's Park, West Perth. Tel: (8) 9481-7100.

Chris Taylor of the welcoming Fraser's, in the center of a lovely park, offers honest fare. Such dishes as his char-grilled dhufish fillet with lemon, extra virgin olive oil and parsley show how the chef wisely allows perfectly chosen ingredients to speak for themselves.

### ADELAIDE

Universal Wine Bar, 285 Rundle St., Adelaide. Tel: (8) 8232-5000; fax: (8) 8232-5757; e-mail: universal@portal.net.au

A fine, casual wine bar for sampling the nation's best wines. Try anything the waiter suggests, or, if they are on the list that day, go for one of those big Rhone-style reds, such as the powerful RBJ Theologium mourvedre grenache or Charles Melton's Nine Popes, starting with a lovely light Lenswood sauvignon blanc.

Charlick's Feed Store, Ebenezer Place, East End, Adelaide. Tel: (8) 8223-7566; fax: (8) 8223-7065.

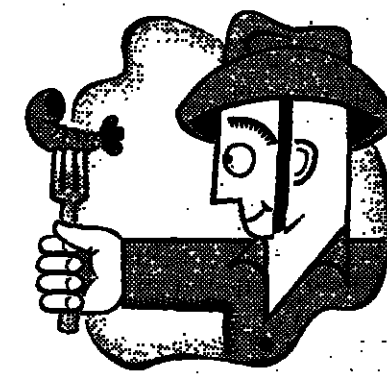
This new, casual dining spot is owned by Maggie and Colin Beer, modern pioneers of the Australian food world. Try the smoked tommy ruffs (sardine-size fish) with green olive and pickled lemon dressing, and sample alongside it a glass of the refreshing white Chapel Hill McLaren Vale verdelho, made from the Portuguese verdelho grape with overtones of honysuckle and tropical fruits.

The Grange, Hilton International, Victoria Square, Adelaide. Tel: (8) 8217-2000.

If you have time for only one meal in Australia, head for the Grange to sample Malaysian-born Chinese chef Cheong Liew's shark's-fin pouch in venison consommé, spiced with tarragon, a dish that is filled with bravery and brilliance, or his red roasted barramundi with green chilies, coriander, snow-pea shoots and calamari shavings, a dish with such genius you won't want to finish it, for all you'll have left is the memory.

Petaluma Bridgewater Mill, Mount Barker Road, Bridgewater. Tel: (8) 8339-3422.

This trendy spot just outside Adelaide is run by the Petaluma winery and showcases its wines. Try the



Croser champagne, as well the fried salt-and-pepper quail with lime and ginger relish, or the roasted duck breast with bok choy, kumquats and cinnamon glaze.

### SYDNEY

Cicada, 29 Challis Ave., Potts Point, Sydney. Tel: (61-2) 9358-1255.

Peter Doyle has reached the pinnacle of modern Australian cooking. His food is seamless, unconventional, balanced and sensible; I fell in love with his perfect jewel box of a package: avocado, crab, mint and coriander, a starter that was like a soothing bath for the palate.

Tetsuya's, 729 Darling St., Rozelle, Sydney. Tel: (2) 9555-1017.

Tetsuya Wakuda is a leader of Australia's fine fusion cuisine, merging the best of Japanese philosophy and classical French technique. In a most unusual setting, plan on sampling his signature confit of ocean trout with ocean-trout roe, braised red capsicum, leeks, konbu seaweed, capers and parsley oil. Think texture, color, flavor, essence.

Bistro Moncur, the Woolahra Hotel, 116 Queen St., Woolahra, Sydney. Tel: (2) 9363-2782.

Damien Pignolet offers great Australian-style French bistro classics in an embracing, warm setting in one of Sydney's most chic neighborhoods. Try the vegetable couscous.

MG Garage, 490 Crown St., Surry Hills, New South Wales. Tel: (2) 9383-9383.

The new trendy spot, with the Greek-born chef Janni Kyritsis, is actually in an MG car showroom. Specialties include guinea fowl baked in clay with pancetta, mushrooms and barley pilaf, as well as many dishes with a fine, Middle Eastern touch.

### BRISBANE

Two Small Rooms, 517 Milton Road, Toowoong, Brisbane. Tel: (61-7) 3371-5251.

One of the best bets in Brisbane. This warm and charming spot run by Michael Conrad and the chef David Pugh offers lovely, simple fare. Try

their outstanding mud-crab omelette with stir-fried vegetables and spicy prawn sauce.

This is one place where I was able to get a simple roasted rack of lamb without the trimmings that camouflage the delicate flavor. Their Mandalong lambs are slaughtered at 9 months. They are weaned at 3 months and fattened on grain for better texture and flavor.

E'cco, 100 Boundary St., Brisbane. Tel: (7) 3831-8344.

Philip Johnson offers no-nonsense food in a lovely setting. He uses all the clichés in the book, but his creations manage to taste original and appealing.

Try the Moreton Bay bugs, a type of shellfish, with pine nuts and aioli; roast chicken with couscous, yogurt, artichokes and asparagus, or sand crabs with chilies and lemon oil. Save room for the Venetian espresso cake, with coconut ice cream and shavings of fresh coconut.

Pier Nine Oyster Bar & Seafood Grill, Eagle Street Pier, 1 Eagle St., Brisbane. Tel: (7) 3229-2194.

This is a beautiful waterside setting for great oysters, and such specials as king prawns with garlic hollandaise or Victoria black-lip mussels with ginger, chili, sweet curry leaves and lime juice.

**MELBOURNE**  
Flower Drum, 17 Market Lane, Melbourne. Tel: (61-3) 9662-3653.

For Chinese food like you have never had before, depend on the owner Gilbert Lau to wow you with such specialties as tender baby abalone the size of an oyster, bathed in vinegar, ginger and soy. The dish was a gastronomic revelation.

Richmond Hill Café & Larder, 48-50 Bridge Road, Richmond. Tel: (3) 9421-2808; fax: (3) 9421-2818.

Stephanie Alexander, one of Australia's top restaurateurs and food personalities, has opened this casual cafe with an exquisite cheese room, great wines and a modern menu that includes pastas, such traditional fare as boeuf à la mode and cheese plates with fruits, nuts and breads. Sunday nights are reserved for a variety of functions, such as cabaret nights and wine dinners.

Patricia Wells





# The Mighty Formaggio di Fossa

## The Odoriferous Soul and Pride of a Small Italian Town

By Kate Singleton

**S**OGLIANO AL RUBICONE, Italy — An odoriferous soul is what distinguishes Sogliano al Rubicone from the numerous small towns that nest on the lower slopes of the Apennines facing Rimini and the Adriatic sea.

Far from causing embarrassment, the pungent, fetid smells that pervade the air, the streets and the houses have long been a source of pride and income. Indeed, in early winter people flock from far and wide to relish the cause of such overpowering olfactory assault: formaggio di fossa, cheese that is buried for three months in deep straw-lined pits until it ripens to a point of almost offensive maturity.

No one knows quite why or when the people of Sogliano first started storing cheese in the underground grain silos that their ancestors dug out of the tufa stone beneath their homes in medieval times.

"During the 12th century numerous castles were built in this area," said Oliver Ortolani, a town councilor who has done much to promote the fame of formaggio di fossa beyond these valleys, "and Sogliano itself became a fief of the Malatesta family."

Bloody quarrels often broke out between the lords of one castle and the next, and in the case of Sogliano between different branches of the same family. Certainly concealing cheese in pits was a way of ensuring that a precious source of protein never fell into enemy hands. Once the pits have been filled with freshly made cheeses they are sealed and paved over with cobbles or

brick, thus becoming invisible to the unpracticed eye.

Ortolani is steeped in knowledge of local traditions because his father used to work as an *infossatore*, or cheese burier, a job that calls for considerable skill. The shafts are bottle-shaped, around 3 meters deep and 2 meters wide. To perform their enzymatic alchemy to perfection they require special preparation. Excessive humidity and undesirable micro-organisms are eliminated by burning straw inside the pits.

Their walls are then lined with fresh straw tucked behind cane supports, while the floor is covered with boards. In this way the cheese does not come into direct contact with the tufa stone and residual whey can drain away.

The traditional day for depositing the cheeses is Aug. 16. Ideally they should contain two thirds cow's milk and one third sheep's milk, but other ratios also produce a fine cheese, as long as the pastures are good. Ortolani says: "Although connoisseurs can distinguish a pit cheese that contains a greater percentage of ewe's milk or has been seasoned earlier, what really counts is the quality of the milk. You won't get good pit-matured cheeses from herds raised intensively down on the plain and fed on grain."

The cheeses are wrapped in white calico bags marked with their weight and the owner's initials. They are packed into the pits and pressed down by foot until the shaft is full to the neck. Next comes a wooden lid, and atop this sand and the paving that lies flush with the floor or street.

For centuries the ceremonial opening of the pits took place each Nov. 25, when

farmers would return to Sogliano from the countryside to claim their goods and pay their dues. To this day the owners of the town's dozen or so active pits take a fee for maturing the cheese according to its weight. Although there are still several independent cheese makers using the pits, nowadays the bulk of the formaggio di fossa is handled by merchants who have understood the curious appeal of such a mephitic gastronomic delicacy.

Demand for the cheese is becoming so widespread that the festivities surrounding the opening of the pits now stretch through the last two weekends of November to the first weekend of December. They include a market, cheese-tasting stands and special menus at local restaurants. The atmosphere is joyously rank and redolent: living history, but not for the faint of nose.

**L**IKE all successful products, Sogliano's formaggio di fossa now has its imitators. The town produces about 132,000 to 154,000 pounds (60 to 70 metric tons) a year, yet pit-matured cheeses of various sorts are now found in specialty stores throughout central and northern Italy.

To protect its name and fame, the Sogliano cheese makers association is now lobbying to obtain a "Denomination of Protected Origin" label as a guarantee of authenticity. This involves circumscribing the geographical provenance of the cheese and defining its sensory qualities: the strong smell, of course, but also its sharp, distinctive flavor and its lean, crumbly consistency.

Kate Singleton is a writer based in Italy.

## MOVIE GUIDE

### ENEMY OF THE STATE

Directed by Tony Scott. U.S.

Though "Enemy of the State" finds a flimsy excuse for setting one scene amid flimsy models, babes have nothing to do with its notion of sex appeal. Instead, it's the gigahertz that are hot in a thriller that treats technology as its biggest turn-on. High-tech surveillance ("Enhance, then forward frame by frame") is at the heart of this latest spashy collaboration between Tony Scott and Jerry Bruckheimer ("Top Gun," "Crimson Tide"), with its premise that privacy is imperiled by runaway electronics. This much is certain: It has a hurtling pace, nonstop intensity and a stylish, appealing performance by Will Smith. As a grand old man of the thrill-happy genre, Scott gives this film a fine cast, a modicum of wit on the run and a reasonably human dimension. As Gene Hackman, playing an eccentric technology wiz, finally admits about Smith's lawyer-turned-action hero: "Not too stupid after all." Smith plays Robert Clayton Dean, an upright and happily married lawyer who winds up, quicker than you can say John Grisham, being targeted, chased and spied on by ruthless forces within the National Security Agency. Needless to say, the "hack" factor is considerable. How exactly does Dean go from peace and quiet to a scene in which he must run away from a helicopter, a truck and a train simultaneously? The screenplay by David Marconi seems to be wired with its own self-destruct mechanism, so that it works within the moment you walk out the door. But Scott comes up with enough sizzly equipment, wild chases and explosive notions (like blowing up the original Dr. Pepper factory in Baltimore) to keep the story moving faster than the speed of scrutiny. And he does use sharp, video-influenced editing more effectively than most (though John Frankenheimer's "Raiders" achieved the same high velocity without benefit of MTV tricks). The film's juxtapositions, sharp angles, jump cuts and aerial surveillance shots (like the Gulf War) have a rhythm that touches the material. And Scott avoids touches of overkill, like pumped-up emotional heft or an overlay of musical schmaltz. The film's horde of foxy screens, transmitters, buttonhole cameras and laptops probably deserve an acting credit of their own. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

### BABE: PIG IN THE CITY

Directed by George Miller. Australia.

No piggy makes bacon out of the little ham but the G rating of "Babe: Pig in the City" isn't exactly kosher. Unlike the warm, whimsical original "Babe" set on the Hoggetts' family farm, the darkly funny sequel takes place on the mean streets of a fantastically inventive but foreboding fairy tale city. Life there is a daily struggle for the dogs, cats and other urban creatures that have been alley-born or abandoned by their hu-



Will Smith, left, and Gene Hackman in "Enemy of the State."

mans. Not that the humans themselves fare much better. Babe (voiced by E.G. Daily) and the farm lady, Mrs. Hoggett (Magda Szubanski), have traveled to this faraway dystopia after our snout-bearded hero causes Farmer Hoggett (James Cromwell) to fall down a well and wind up in traction. They have a plan to save their heavily mortgaged acreage. Though bound for a state fair to collect a performance fee, the two are detoured to this bizarre, "Brazil"-like Oz, where they befriend a troupe of circus monkeys, a chorus of cats and a disabled terrier in a doggie wheelchair. Streetwise, surly, neurotic. The creatures of this concrete jungle aren't as lovable as Babe's barnyard buddies. They're like sophisticated pair versions of the characters in "Lady and the Tramp"; they sound like jaded molls and mobsters. George Miller, who produced and co-wrote "Babe," left it to Chris Noonan to direct the 1995 Oscar nominee. But Miller, who created the "Mad Max" franchise, takes the camera into his own hands here with results that are technically sublime, but emotionally harrowing. "Babe" didn't shrink from mankind's appetite for sausage links or other unpleasant realities, but "Pig in the City" is a far grimmer tale, involving homelessness, starvation and attempted infanticide. In one instance, a pit bull becomes entangled in its leash and tumbles from a bridge, where he seemingly hangs all dead. Though the plucky porker comes to the rescue, the scene is far too long and too macabre for adults, much less wee viewers. Still, along with Ferdinand the duck, the singing mice are back with an expanded repertoire. This is hardly your same old trouph of stop. Babe nonetheless prevails, demonstrating once again "how a kind and steady heart can heal a sorry world." (Rita Kempley, WP)

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## ARTS GUIDE

### AUSTRIA

**VIENNA**  
Kunstlerhaus, tel: (1) 52-177-404, closed Mondays. To Feb. 21: "Jemen. Kunst und Archäologie in Land der Koeniginnen von Saba" Items excavated in the land of the Queen of Sheba, today's Yemen. The funerary stela and idols, the relief panels and other items illustrate the period when Yemen became receptive to Mediterranean influences.

### BRITAIN

**LONDON**  
British Museum, tel: (171) 236-155, open daily. To Jan. 10: "Montagna to Rubens." Drawings by Tintoretto, Correggio, Vasari and Parmigianino. Some are elaborate works, others are rapid sketches showing the creative process of the artist at work. Also, to Jan. 10: "Claude Lorrain." Twenty etchings and 80 drawings, including preparatory drawings and nature studies.

**Tate Gallery**, tel: (171) 887-8000, open daily. To Feb. 14: "Turner in the Alps." More than 65 works on paper reveal the British artist's impressions of the Alps during his first trip to continental Europe in 1802. The display also includes watercolors made upon his return to England.

### DENMARK

**COPENHAGEN**  
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, tel: 49-19-07-19, open daily. To Feb. 7: "Frank O. Gehry." Focuses on the architect's formal concepts and working processes. Some of Gehry's most recent realizations include the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, and the Vitra Design Museum in Weil-am-Rhein, Germany.

### FRANCE

**PARIS**  
Fondation Electrice de France, tel: 01-55-63-23-45, closed Mondays and holidays. To Jan. 17: "Fictions Intimes." Fiction in photographs, from Surrealists such as Man Ray, Hans Bellmer, to realist photographers such as Diane Arbus, Carter-Bresson and Doisneau. The works are mainly portraits, bodies and narrative photographs. Petit Palais, tel: 01-42-76-65-65, closed Mondays. To Feb. 14: "Saver Assise." Paralleling the launch of the renovation campaign of the Assisi basilica that was hit by an earthquake a year ago, the exhibition brings together paintings, religious books and implements from the Basilica Treasury.

### GERMANY

**DUSSELDORF**  
Kunstmuseum, tel: (211) 89-92480, closed Mondays. To Jan. 24: "Angelika Kauffmann: Retro-spektive." More than 200 works, including 140 paintings, by the Swiss portrait and genre painter (1741-1807). Kauffmann became one of the founding members of the Royal Academy in London in



Beckmann's "Snake Charmer" on show in Jerusalem.

the 1750s, before returning to Rome where her portraits and history paintings were in demand by European nobility. The exhibition will travel to Munich.

### ISRAEL

**JERUSALEM**  
The Israel Museum, tel: (2) 6708-811, open daily. To Feb. 2: "The Joy of Color: The Merzbacher Collection." Showcases a private collection of more than 130 modern paintings and sculptures. Among the 77 artists are the Fauves (Matisse, Derain, Vlaminck); the German Expressionists (Kirchner, Nolde); Paul Klee (with six works); the Italian Futurists (Balla, Boccioni, Severini); the Russian Avant-Garde (Gorodkov, Larionov), and Abstract Expressionists (Sam Francis).

### ITALY

**MILAN**  
Fondazione Prada, tel: (2) 546-70216, closed Mondays. To Jan. 6: "Sam Taylor-Wood." One of the most widely discussed exponents of "New British Art," Taylor-Wood (born 1967) is showing new large-format photographs and a video installation.

### JAPAN

**OSAKA**  
Suntory Museum, tel: (6) 577-0001, open daily. To Jan. 24: "Baccarat: L'Eclat de la Lumiere." On loan from the Baccarat Museum in Paris, approximately 400 items dating back to the first objects created in the 1830, including 70 perfume bottles.

### NETHERLANDS

**AMSTERDAM**  
Rijksmuseum, tel: (20) 671, open daily. To Feb. 28: "Sawasa: Japanese Export Art in Black and Gold." "Sawasa" means luxury objects produced in the 17th and 18th centuries in Japan and China. These tobacco boxes, buttons, buckles and knobs for walking sticks were made from gold, bronze, lacquered in black and decorated with gilded reliefs.

### PORTUGAL

**LISBON**  
Fundacao Arpad Szenes-Vieira de Silva, tel: (1) 388-0044, closed Tuesdays and public holidays. To Jan. 31: "Alberto Giacometti." On loan from the Maeght Foundation in southern France, 19 sculptures and 20 drawings, most of them

representing the human figure. After experimenting with Cubism and Surrealism, the sculptures of the Swiss artist (1901-1966) began to take on the elongated form for which he became famous.

### SOUTH KOREA

**YONGIN**  
Ho-Am Art Museum, tel: (0335) 20-18-51, closed Mondays. To Dec. 31: "Auspicious Dreams: Decorative Paintings of Korea." A selection of works from the museum's expanded collection. [www.hoamuseum.org](http://www.hoamuseum.org)

### SPAIN

**BILBAO**  
Guggenheim Museum, tel: (94) 435-90-00. To March 7: "Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective." Highlighting his painting and sculpture, the exhibit brings together 300 works by the U.S.-born artist. It captures the practice of working in diverse mediums and presents his collaboration in the performing arts and in technology-based works. [www.gm30.es/guggenheim](http://www.gm30.es/guggenheim)

### SWITZERLAND

**LAUSANNE**  
Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, tel: (21) 316-3445, closed Mondays. To Feb. 21: "Courbet, Artist and Entrepreneur." The exhibition examines the French painter's efforts at reaching out to a public of dealers and collectors, with provocative nudes, genre figures and hunting scenes. In his landscapes, Courbet (1819-1877) followed the anti-academic attempts of plein-air painters.

### UNITED STATES

**BALTIMORE**  
Walters Art Gallery, tel: (410) 547-9000, closed Mondays. To Jan. 3: "The Invisible Made Visible: Angels from the Vatican." More than 100 paintings, sculptures and other images of angels spanning more than 2,000 years from Assyrian, Etruscan, Greek, Roman and Christian traditions. Features works by Raphael, Reni, Fra Angelico, Rouault and Dali. [www.TheWalters.org](http://www.TheWalters.org)

**NEW YORK**  
Museum of Modern Art, tel: (212) 708-9400, closed Wednesdays. To Feb. 2: "Dubuffet to De Kooning: Expressionist Prints from Europe and America." A variety of prints by contemporaries of Jackson Pollock in the 1940s, 50s and '60s. Also features works by Motherwell, Hartung, Soulages and Alchin-sky. [www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org)

**WASHINGTON**  
The Phillips Collection, tel: (202) 387-2151, closed Mondays. To Jan. 3: "Impressionists in Winter: Effets de Neige." Focusing on snowscapes by Monet, Sisley and Pissarro, the exhibition also includes winter landscapes by Calabotte, Renli and Gauguin.

Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

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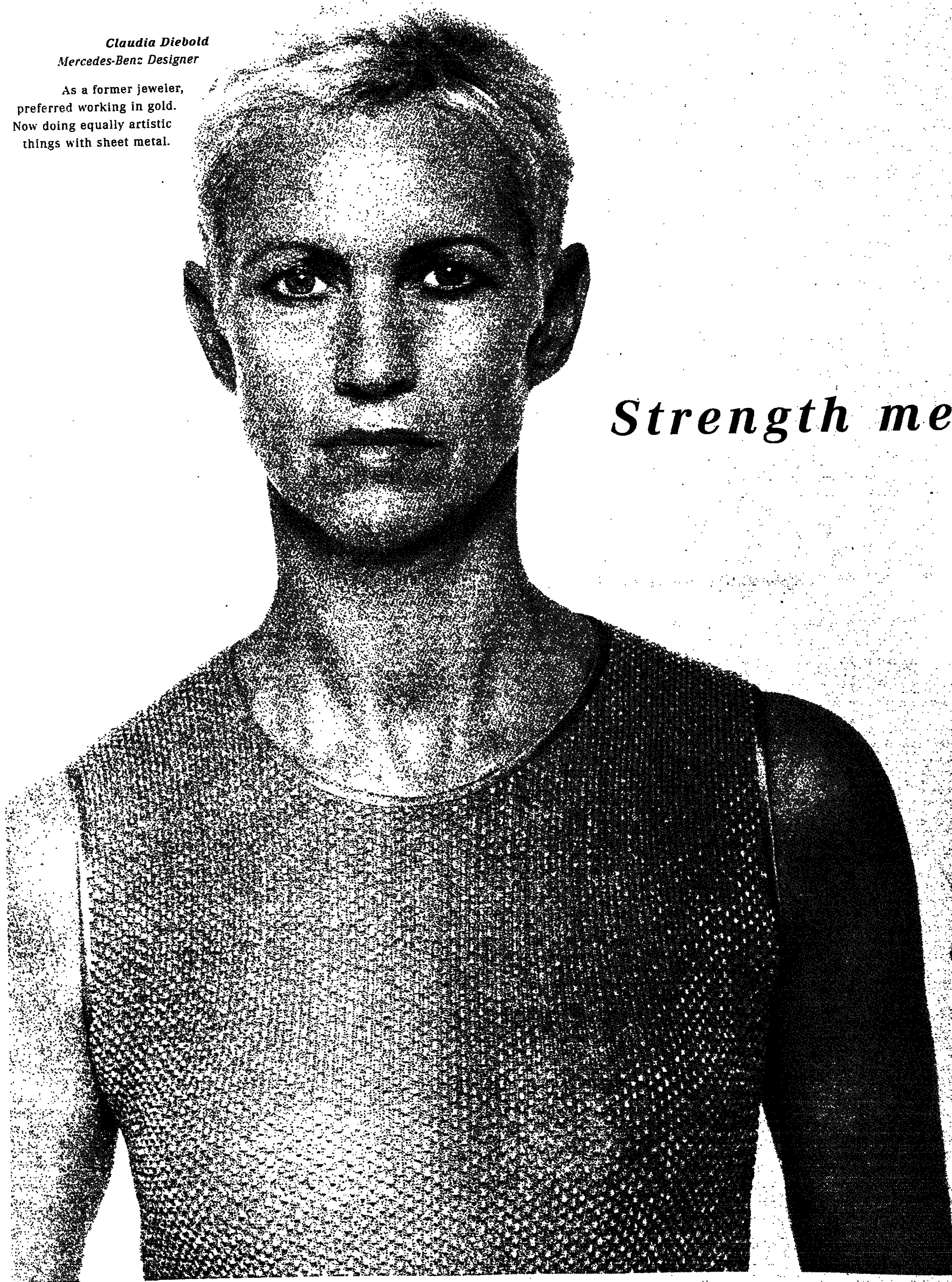
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## INTERNATIONAL

## Thousands Turn Out for Funeral of Iran Dissident

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TEHRAN — Tens of thousands of mourners, some chanting anti-government slogans, gathered in Tehran on Thursday at the funeral of a murdered opposition leader and his wife.

The crowd turned the ceremony for the opposition leader, Darius Forouhar, and his wife, Parvaneh, at the Fakhr mosque into a nationalist rally.

Mourners carried portraits of the couple, found dead in their Tehran apartment Sunday, and chanted "Death to tyranny" and "Freedom of thought forever." Others sang patriotic songs and celebrated the late nationalist leader Mohammed Mossadegh, who helped inspire Mr. Forouhar and his small Iran National Party.

"Do you see the crowd?" said one of the organizers. "It shows how deeply rooted Iran's national movement and the ideals of Mossadegh are in the hearts of the people."

In a strong speech to Intelligence Ministry officials Thursday, President Mohammed Khatami said Mr. Forouhar's killers must be brought to justice.

"The murder of the late Mr. Forouhar is condemned," he said. "The government, and especially the intelligence network, have a very important duty to confront it. If we don't deal with the crime seriously, and not identify the culprits, the episode will not only constitute a disrespect for our system, it will become the beginning of more problems to come."

At one point the crowd streamed past a row of buses waiting to take them to the cemetery, instead heading toward the site of the former Parliament, a symbol of Iran's struggle for independence.

Policemen barred the way and there were minor scuffles. There were no apparent injuries and no sign of any attempt by political rivals to disrupt the proceedings.

The police said Wednesday that they had made a number of arrests in the murder case.

Mr. Forouhar served as labor minister in Iran's first government after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. His party, illegal but tolerated, publishes a newsletter that often carries reports of what it says are human rights violations. (Reuters, AP)

### Khatami Condemns Bus Attack

Mr. Khatami condemned on Thursday an Islamic militant attack on a bus carrying American tourists, saying it was a national disgrace. The Associated Press reported from Tehran.

"The ugly, perverse and possibly conspiratorial treatment of foreign tourists, and those who are officially visiting Iran with valid visas, was an affront to the honor of the Iranian people," Tehran radio quoted Mr. Khatami as saying in a speech to Intelligence Ministry officials.

Radicals chanting "Death to America" and wielding iron bars and throwing stones smashed the windows of a bus carrying 13 foreigners, mostly Americans, in Tehran on Saturday. Devotees of Islam, a radical Muslim group that has been dormant for many years, claimed responsibility for the attack.

## Placental Blood: A Simpler Transplant Than Bone Marrow

By Denise Grady  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — For people who need bone-marrow transplants to fight leukemia or other deadly diseases, but who lack a compatible marrow donor, doctors are salvaging hope from a curious source, one that is normally thrown away: blood left in the umbilical cords and placentas of newborn infants.

In the largest study of placental blood use to date, in 562 patients, including more than 400 children, survival rates were similar to those in studies using bone marrow from unrelated donors who perfectly matched the recipients on tissue typing tests. The procedure worked in many cases

even when the placental blood was not perfectly matched to the patients' tissue. The researchers referred to placental blood, but it is widely known as cord blood.

Patients in the new study were gravely ill with leukemia, lymphoma, other cancers or genetic diseases, and were given cord blood as a last resort because bone marrow donors had not been found for them, or because they were considered too sick to wait the months it could take to find a marrow donor.

The results, published Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine, were announced Wednesday by Dr. Pablo Rubinstein, head of immunogenetics at the New York Blood Center in Manhattan. The center has been banking placental

blood since 1993 and provided it to 98 hospitals in the United States and overseas that took part in the study.

Because cord blood is readily available, it could be a huge boon to thousands of people who need marrow transplants. Moreover, cord blood is less likely than bone marrow to transmit infection, and it is collected at no risk to the donor. Donors of bone marrow must undergo a surgical procedure and anesthesia when their marrow is harvested.

Earlier, smaller studies had suggested that cord blood might be a possible alternative to bone marrow transplants, but researchers said they were heartened by Dr. Rubinstein's findings because of their scope and because patients involved had fared better than might have been expected. All

had been extremely ill, many in advanced stages of disease after long periods of waiting in vain for a bone marrow donor.

Still, by 100 days after cord blood transplantation, 218 of the 562 had died. A similar rate would be expected with bone marrow transplants from unrelated donors in such severe cases.

Dr. Claude L'Enfant, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which funded the study but did not take part in it, said in a telephone interview, "The prospects are quite fantastic in my opinion. The work from the New York Blood Center is really a landmark study."

But Dr. L'Enfant also tempered his remarks, adding that cord blood transplants are an emerging treatment that must be studied further.



SHAPE OF THE FUTURE — Michael Grade, an official of the Millennium Dome in London, after unveiling a computer image Thursday of the abstract human figures that will dominate the interior of the structure.

## Saddam Vows to Keep Fighting 'Hostile' Demands on Baghdad

Agence France-Press

BAGHDAD — President Saddam Hussein vowed Thursday to fight on in his resistance to demands for key weapons files.

"Iraq will continue, on the same path, its fight against its enemies," he said, denouncing, without naming, the United States for its "pursuit of a hostile policy toward the Arab world."

"After years of fighting, Iraq has become a model of resistance for the Arab world," the official Iraqi press quoted Mr. Saddam as saying.

His comments came as the international community failed to show a united front to Iraq's defiance of demands by the chief UN arms inspector, Richard Butler, for key documents on biological, chemical and ballistic weapons.

The UN Security Council threw its support behind UN weapons inspec-

tors Tuesday but refrained from saying whether Iraq's refusal to hand over the documents was a violation of a promise of cooperation, made Nov. 14 under the threat of bombing.

A senior Iraqi diplomat hailed the Security Council declaration as a victory for Baghdad and a snub of hard-liners in Washington and London.

"It was a snub for the United States and Britain, who were unable to convince the Security Council to adopt a hostile declaration which could lead to attacks," said Salah Mokhtar, the incoming Iraqi representative to the UN, said Wednesday.

President Bill Clinton's top security advisers met late Wednesday in their second meeting in as many days to discuss Iraq's refusal, and the tone from the White House remained tough. But Washington has not said whether Iraq's refusal could lead to military reprisals.

## Israel Blacklists Archives Its Says Are Uncooperative

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel is calling for the opening of international Holocaust-era archives and has published a list of repositories that officials say have put obstacles in the way of researchers.

In a letter made public this week, Bobby Brown, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's adviser on Diaspora affairs, named a dozen archives in Europe and Russia that "have refused or have been uncooperative in sharing information."

"We appeal to each institution listed to open their files so that we may learn why civilized society failed in its basic commitment to ensure the safety, lives, liberty and property of our people," said the Nov. 22 letter addressed to the head of the Israeli delegation to a coming Washington conference on Holocaust assets.

The publication of the letter, which did not give details of noncooperation, drew fire from a number of the institutions named. It also attracted critics who questioned whether Israel, itself the victim of boycotts, should be engaging in issuing blacklists.

"Blacklists are something that we as a people should shy away from," said Abe Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League, who added that the singling out of archives was "irresponsible and counterproductive."

Officials at some of the archives listed expressed dismay.

"We had an impression that our cooperation with institutions representing Jewish communities was going on with the satisfaction of both sides," said Daria Nalecz, head of the Polish State Archives, which was on the list.

The controversy arose before a four-day conference on Holocaust-era assets, which starts Monday in Washington.

The state institutions named in the letter included the Vatican archives, the French National Archives, the files of the British Custodian of Enemy Property, the M15 intelligence agency and the central state archives and Prague Jewish Museum in the Czech Republic.

## BUG: 400 Days Left to Fix the Computers

Continued from Page 1

expect failure," said Roger Ferguson, a member of the Fed's board of governors and chairman of the presidential Year 2000 Council.

The current state of preparedness underscores the need for contingency arrangements. Gartner Group, a U.S. consultancy that conducts the broadest assessment of year 2000 preparations, warned last month that 23 percent of the companies it surveys in 87 countries had not started any work on the problem, a worrying sign, as it takes the average medium-sized company a full 30 months to make all its critical operations year 2000 compliant.

Gartner predicted that one-third to one-half of companies and government agencies worldwide would experience a disruption to operations severe enough to halt production or product delivery, cause a significant loss of revenue or legal liability, or pose a health hazard. In the United States, where remedial efforts are believed to be among the most advanced, disruptions were expected to hit as many as 15 percent of companies and agencies.

"The problem continues to be underestimated, and full-scale actions to address it are only recently beginning in many countries," the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development warned in a similar report. Half of OECD member countries have begun drawing up contingency plans to deal with year 2000 problems, it said.

Although no one can be sure where problems will arise or how severe they will be, a consensus is developing that problems will stop short of catastrophe. Gartner predicted that 90 percent of disruptions will be resolved within three days, and many companies are making contingencies for relatively short disruptions.

Airbus Industrie, which flies aircraft parts from member companies in Britain, Germany and Spain to the consortium's final assembly "plant" in Toulouse, France, is planning to stockpile one or two weeks' worth of parts in Toulouse before Dec. 31, 1999, to safeguard production in case Europe's skies are closed by a failure of air-traffic control systems, according to Helga Floedoff, the company's year 2000 project manager.

Unilever, the British-Dutch consumer products group, is sitting down with key suppliers to assess their compliance before deciding, sometime early next year, whether to stockpile raw materials or finished goods. But the company already is lining up backup communications facilities with satellite companies such as Inmarsat and Iridium, said Nick White, head of technology and communications.

The U.S. Coast Guard is considering stockpiling such vital spare parts as rotors for its fleet, said George Naccara, the service's chief information officer. "We have found suppliers who have said, 'We will go out of business on Dec. 31.'"

The Coast Guard also has ordered 10,000 inspection forms to be printed in case its computerized ship-inspection system crashes, and it is considering deploying its ships in all major U.S. ports so their satellite communications can be used as a backup in case telephone service breaks down.

While anticipating technical problems is difficult, trying to predict the behavior of consumers is even more fraught with risk. Two Hollywood studios are believed to be preparing year 2000 disaster films for release next summer. The American Association of Retired People has urged members to have \$1,000 in cash for every person in their household. Even Gartner, which warns

against a "bomb-shelter mentality," is advising people to fill their gasoline tanks, set aside two weeks' salary in cash and stock batteries, medicines and a week's worth of food.

"I'm often asked, 'Will there be a dial tone?'" said Mr. Powell of the communications commission. His answer: "Yes, unless you and everyone else picks up the phone to check."

Mr. Powell is encouraging U.S. telephone companies to enter mutual-assistance pacts to provide stopgap service in case of year 2000 failures. Many business executives maintain such government efforts to ensure the reliability of power, communications and transportation networks will be vital to preventing a panic.

"Public confidence in the infrastructure will affect consumer behavior," Mr. White of Unilever said.

Mr. Ferguson of the Federal Reserve downplayed the prospect of panic. While the risk of market disruption is real, he said, banks and financial institutions have led the way in preparing for a fix for the millennium bug.

"I don't think the American people will believe the year 2000 disaster story any more than they believed Alfred Hitchcock," he said.

### BRIEFLY

#### Israel to Review Lebanon Security

LONDON — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel promised a review of security arrangements on the country's border with Lebanon on Thursday after the killing of five Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon in the past 10 days.

Mr. Netanyahu, following talks with Robin Cook, the British foreign secretary, repeated that he would be willing to contemplate the eventual withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon if a way could be found to meet Israel's security needs and protect its militia allies there.

Israel, which has controlled parts of south Lebanon since 1978, set up a self-declared "security zone" in 1985 to protect its northern border from guerrilla attacks. (Reuters)

#### French Urge Africa To Keep the Peace

PARIS — France will try to persuade African leaders this week that they should take over peacekeeping in the region and end the era when white soldiers kept order on the continent.

Paul Quilès, a former French defense minister, told a conference ahead of an African-French summit meeting in Paris on Friday and Saturday that their task "is to help African countries to develop their own peacekeeping capacities."

Mr. Quilès said France wanted to distance itself from the past, but would not withdraw the 7,000 soldiers it maintains in independent African states. (Reuters)

#### UN Police Extend Mission to Haiti

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Despite objections from Haitian lawmakers, the Security Council has decided to keep a UN civilian police force in Haiti for another year to keep training the nation's young force.

Haitian lawmakers say the international troops should be replaced by Haitian instructors. But President Rene Preval had asked for an extension of the police mandate. (AP)

#### Cuba Detains 6 After Drugs Find

HAVANA — Cuba is holding six Canadian tourists for suspected drug smuggling after cocaine was allegedly found in their luggage, foreign diplomats said.

Four men and two women were arrested on Nov. 8 at Havana Airport after arriving from Jamaica. A seventh member of the group, a pregnant woman, was released. (Reuters)

#### For the Record

Scores of skeletons in Algeria, believed to be those of the victims of Islamic guerrillas, have been unearthed from mass graves, according to newspaper reports. (Reuters)

## GOBBLE: Even Thanksgiving Succumbs to the Takeout Trend

Continued from Page 1

"The Norman Rockwell picture doesn't exist anymore, or Martha Stewart," she said. "But you can re-create it if you order it."

New Yorkers may have started the trend, but others share their love of convenience and their lack of time to peel and dice, whip and bake.

In Washington, more than two dozen groceries, caterers, restaurants and delis offered prepared Thanksgiving feasts for pickup or delivery this year.

In San Diego, at the Arazzo Market Cafe, the feast included corn bisque with red bell peppers and rosemary, a free-range turkey basted with a choice of butters or glazes and other side dishes. A complete dinner for 12 cost \$175.

Nor did one have to live in a big city to take it easy on Turkey Day. From the Internet, one could buy gourmet pies, smoked turkeys, hams and virtually any other specialty food. Plainville Farms, in

Plainville, New York, offered whole turkeys, turkey breasts and side dishes for shipping anywhere in the country.

The main factor seems to be time. In the mid-1960s, Americans spent an average of 2½ hours a day making dinner, according to a survey by the grocery manufacturers. Today, the average is 15 minutes. A parallel factor, experts said, is that in 1965, 39 percent of women were in the labor force. Today, that figure is 79 percent.

"Too busy," was the only thing one woman at Eli's had time to muller as she explained why she was buying a prepared appetizer, even though her sister was making the rest of the dinner.

Ben Dragoon, owner of Ben's Kosher Deli, said he sold about 1,200 Thanksgiving dinners at his seven stores.

"Years ago, prepared foods or catering were high-fashion items that meant spending a lot of money," said Mr. Dragoon, whose business for the holidays has been growing at about 10 per-

cent a year. "But now, it's less expensive to order the meal than to go to the store and buy raw ingredients, because most people buy too much."

Mr. Dragoon offered turkey, soup, appetizers, side dishes and dessert for 10 people, delivered hot, for \$100 to \$175.

"It's so much better than what you make yourself," said Thea Putnam, loading her basket at Citarella, a gourmet food shop on the Upper West Side, with freshly made cranberry relish, gravy and wild rice stuffing. "I'm a pretty good cook, but this is better," she said. "I still cook the turkey and the sweet potatoes myself. I fake everything else."

The trend toward prepared food for Thanksgiving has not carried away everyone. "My husband would kill me," said Karolina Trevino about the idea of a turkey cooked by someone other than herself. "I'm old about it. I like to do it myself," she said, though she did acknowledge that she had bought prepared soup.

## U.S. Navy Admiral Is Suspected Of Steering Contracts to a Lover

By Bradley Graham  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A U.S. admiral responsible for Navy purchases is under investigation on suspicion of steering contracts to a woman with whom he was allegedly having an affair, according to Pentagon officials.

Rear Admiral John Scudi, 54, who was the Washington-based director of shore installation management and privatization programs, was relieved of those duties in August pending completion of the inquiry. He is scheduled to appear in military court Dec. 14 for a preliminary hearing on charges that he failed to abide by the Pentagon's ethics regulations in awarding the contracts, made false statements and obstructed investigators.

A married one-star officer, Admiral Scudi also faces two counts of adultery, one with the female contractor and the other with a Navy civilian employee, according to officials familiar with the investigation. A Navy spokesman in

Norfolk, Virginia, said Admiral Scudi had declined all media requests for comment. The allegations against the admiral were first reported in the Washington Times.

Navy investigators, who had suspected Admiral Scudi of wrongdoing for months, got a break in the case last spring when the contractor agreed to cooperate and implicated the admiral, the officials said.

"She learned about the other affair with the civilian employee," one official said. "That's when she came forward and expressed a willingness to cooperate."

Admiral Scudi, who has served 32 years in the Navy, is accused of having improperly directed about \$150,000 of training contracts to the woman from 1993 to 1997. He also is said by officials to have funneled "nonpublic information" to the contractor for use in obtaining other government contracts, then urged her to cover up their relationship when investigators began inquiring about it last year.



Admiral Scudi, due in court soon.

Since being relieved of his Washington duties, Admiral Scudi has been temporarily assigned to the Navy Surface Forces Command in Norfolk. The investigation could result in a court-martial proceeding or, as has been more frequently the case with wrongdoing by senior officers, it could be handled by administrative punishment.

## Former President of Zimbabwe, Convicted of Sodomy, On Run

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Former President Canaan Banana was convicted of 11 counts of sodomy and homosexual assault Thursday, and prosecutors confirmed that he had fled the country.

Mr. Banana, 62, a Methodist minister, illegally went to neighboring Botswana ahead of the verdict, said Chief Prosecutor Augustine Chikumba. He said the government would seek Mr. Banana's extradition.

"The court finds the accused guilty on all 11 charges," Judge Godfrey Chidzaisi said when he passed judgment.

He said Mr. Banana was guilty of two cases of sodomy and nine cases of indecent assault, attempted sodomy and of committing "unnatural" sexual acts. Mr. Banana has been on bail since September 1997. His trial began in June after the Supreme Court rejected his appeal that adverse pretrial publicity had prejudiced his right to a fair hearing.

The guilty verdict on all counts came after the three-week June trial. Each of the 11 charges carries a usual penalty of

two years imprisonment, for a possible maximum of 22 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 10.

The offenses attributed to Mr. Banana mostly involved bodyguards, a cook and a gardener on his presidential staff. They allegedly occurred when he was president after independence in 1980 until 1987.

Mr. Banana's case has deeply embarrassed President Robert Mugabe, who insists that homosexuality is foreign to African culture and was brought to the continent from the West. He has introduced an outspoken campaign against homosexuality, describing same-sex partners as "lower than pigs and dogs."

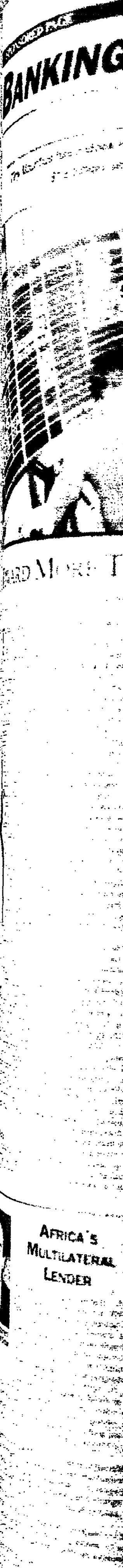
The prosecutor told the court that Mr. Banana had left Zimbabwe on Nov. 17 without his passport, which he had surrendered as part of his bail conditions, and was thought to be in Botswana. In Gaborone, a presidential spokesman said Mr. Banana had made no official contacts and had already left Botswana.

Mr. Banana, who is married with four children, has dismissed all suggestions that he is a homosexual. (AP, Reuters)





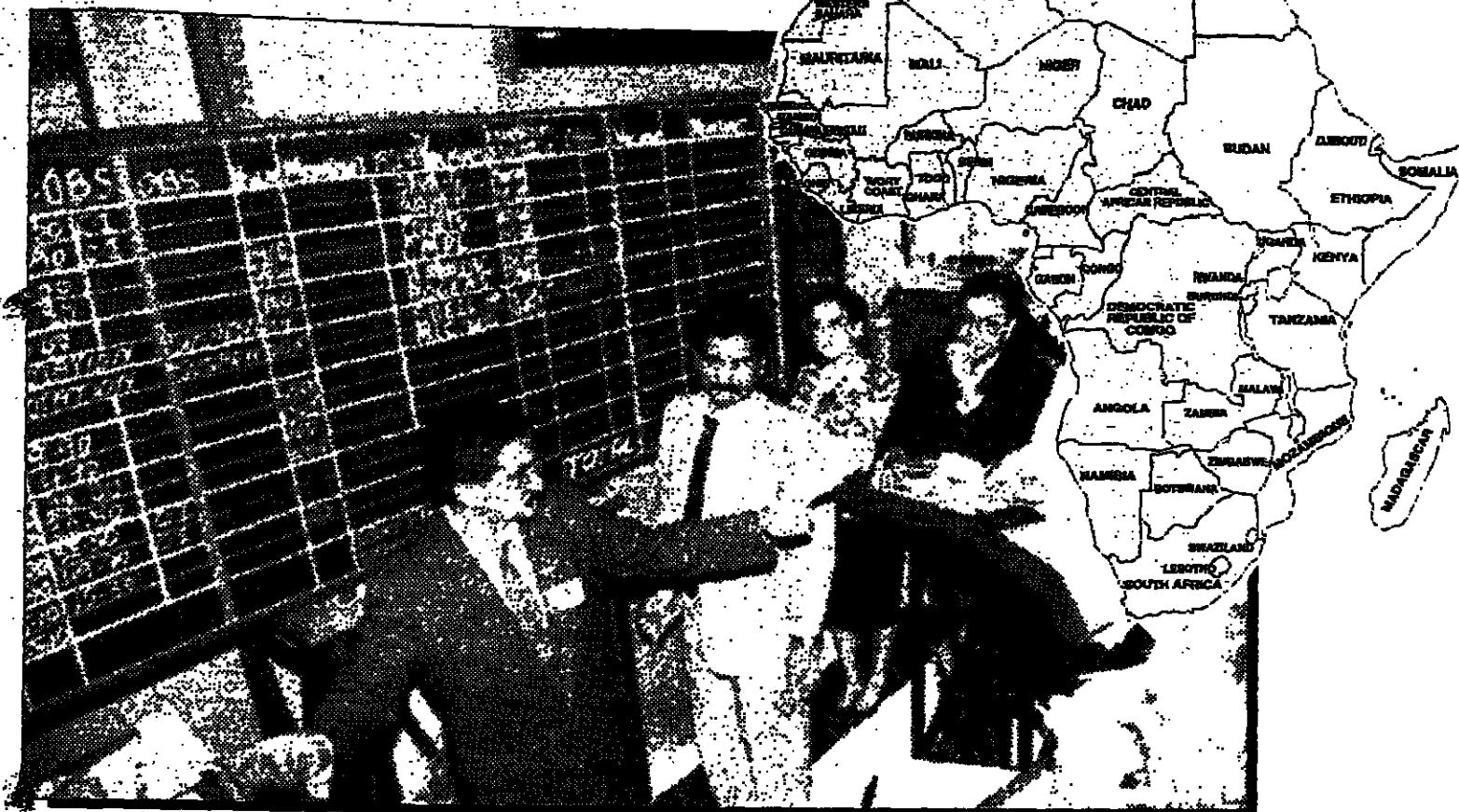






# BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES IN AFRICA

**Tiny Mauritius has a stock market capitalization of \$1.8 billion, one the largest in Africa.**



## STOCK MARKETS ATTRACT INCREASED FOREIGN CAPITAL

New funds are being launched that invest in a portfolio of African markets.

The liberalization of capital markets and internalization of domestic markets has increased portfolio investment in sub-Saharan Africa. Global investment managers have been increasingly attracted to the investment opportunities offered by African stock exchanges. Recently, the Africa Growth and Investment Fund — based in South Africa and sponsored by Citibank, Société Générale and Rothschild — was launched to invest Africa-wide. Around the same time, the West African Growth Fund, based in Abidjan for investments in the privatized and private companies of Franc Zone countries, was founded.

There are 12 stock markets in sub-Saharan Africa — in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Côte d'Ivoire. The tiny island of Mauritius, 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) off the East African coast, also has one.

**Wide variation**  
African stock exchanges trade company stocks, corporate bonds and other debt instruments and government securities. Market capitalization varies widely, from South Africa's giant Johannesburg stock exchange, with a market capitalization of \$241 billion at the beginning of 1998, to Malawi's, with a few hundred million dollars.

**Recently, the Africa Growth and Investment Fund, based in South Africa and sponsored by Citibank, Société Générale and Rothschild, was launched to invest Africa-wide**

**Offshore success**  
Mauritius, often referred to as an "African success story," is a flourishing offshore financial center founded on a stable and relatively industrialized economy, which has given it real gross domestic product growth of 5 percent to 6 percent. The Stock Exchange of Mauritius, one of the largest in Africa, has a market capitalization of \$1.8 billion. The main all-share index had 46 companies listed in March 1998, with two companies also listed on the London Stock Exchange. SEM has 11 active stock-broking companies.

Over a five-year period, commercial banking has had average annual growth of 9 percent. Foreign banks have long been attracted to the island, and many of these, including Barclays, have built large networks of branches.

Two of the largest banks — the Mauritius Commercial Bank, holding 45 percent of the domestic market, and the State Bank of Mauritius, with 30 percent of market share — dominate the Mauritius Stock Exchange. SEM permits the listing of offshore investment funds; there were more than 130 at the end of 1997. ■

## TOWARD MORE TRANSPARENCY AND SOPHISTICATION

Privately owned institutions are leading the way to the modernization and internationalization of African banks.

The face of banking in sub-Saharan Africa is changing. Financial reforms have opened up banking and given rise to many opportunities for both local entrepreneurs and foreign investors.

One of South Africa's top banks, Standard — in a list including Stanbic, Amalgamated Bank of South Africa Group, Nedcor, First National Bank Holdings, Investec Group and NBS Bond Bank — was the first to take advantage of the opportunities offered by countries to the north. In May 1998, Standard bought 72 percent of Malawi's Indebank Financial Services. It has 14 other ventures in, for instance, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Swaziland and Nigeria. Investments in one country can lead to opportunities in another. Nedcor's investment in the State Bank of Mauritius should open the door to Madagascar and India.

While most of the countries attracting foreign investors have introduced economic and political reforms, regulatory and supervisory measures have often failed to keep pace. A series of bank failures is forcing individual countries to restructure their banking sectors to create an environment better able to foster economic growth and encourage and keep foreign business interest. In this, governments play a crucial role.

**Basic banking**  
Improving banking conditions can bring excellent returns. One example is

Banque Belgoise's investments in African countries such as Congo and Togo. According to a World Bank study, "Bank Restructuring in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons Learned," the pace of change in banking sectors has much to do with government commitment to restructuring. The results of bank restructuring were compared in seven countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Mozambique. Strong government support, indicated by "the transmission of technical know-how to policy makers" was evident in the first three, while the last four were characterized by a "lack of government commitment" to reform. As with Kenya, the Nigerian and Zimbabwean banking sectors did not — until crises began to loom — have concentrated government commitment to reform.

Nonetheless, countries in every corner of Africa are rising to the challenge and carving out more efficient and streamlined banking sectors, often against a backdrop of macroeconomic instability, declining aid and low levels of foreign direct investment (FDI). South Africa, Ghana, Uganda, Angola and Nigeria (the last two for oil production) are the main recipients of FDI. But, as the IMF says, attracting FDI requires "a stable macroeconomic environment" along with improved "governance" and a legal and regulatory environment that is stable and transparent.

Many central banks — as with other types of bank, in-

cluding the largest commercial ones — still remain under government control. Some have been liquidated or sold to private concerns. Weak management, attributable to a lack of skills and also corruption, compromises banks' standing. Many are forced to prop up inefficient state enterprises and mop up government fiscal deficits, besides providing credit to politically connected private-sector concerns.

There is much to be done, and central banks have an important part to play, but these institutions are unlikely to be effective in supervisory and regulatory roles until they become autonomous from government. As Okochukwu Unegbu, second vice president of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, recently told a London business magazine: "If the Central Bank is not autonomous, there will be a passing of the buck between it and the Ministry of Finance."

**A fine line**  
Liberalization has provided opportunities for all manner of financial institutions, from unregistered dealers to merchant banks, discount houses, new commercial banks and building societies in Africa, from Zimbabwe and Nigeria to Kenya, to name only a few. These developments have led to criticism in local national newspapers that the countries are "overbanked" and are failing to meet their obligations. There is a downside to liberalization — excesses, which are all the more problematic when supervisory measures are thin on the ground.

In Kenya, Prudential became the fourth bank to fail to meet clearing responsibilities. Others, such as Trust Bank (with branches in Uganda and Tanzania) and Reliance Bank, suffered the same fate earlier and are under statutory management — a situation adding to what is already a crisis of confidence in small banks.

Not even the largest have been free of the shadow of dubious management practices. A few weeks before the third tranche of shares in majority-state-owned Kenya Commercial Bank was floated in April, local newspapers reported that the general manager and some of the directors had acquired unserviced loans worth \$2.58 million. Finance Minister Simeon Nychae took immediate action against those accused.

Likewise, the collapse of Zimbabwean Roger Boka's United Merchant Bank (UMB) because of insolvency and undercapitalization was a severe jolt to investor confidence. Much of the blame was subsequently laid at the door of the Reserve Bank (the central bank) for poor supervision. UMB allegedly illegally issued around \$40 million worth of

bills for the Cold Storage Commission. Some estimates put UMB's losses at between \$55 million and \$80 million.

The fallout has been considerable, not only because of the flight of deposits to foreign-owned banks, including Standard Chartered, Stanbic and Barclays, but also because the issue dented Zimbabwe's "indigenization" program.

**Nigerian reforms**  
There are many similarities with Nigeria, which is also rationalizing its banking sector. Some of the largest institutions — Union Bank, United Bank for Africa and First Bank — have begun restructuring with a view to listing on international stock exchanges. UBA expects to be the first, and hopes for an early listing on the London and New York stock exchanges. UBA is owned by Banque Nationale de Paris, several foreign companies and local interests.

A complex two-tier system took root in Nigeria, where banking expanded rapidly during the 1990s (there were 41 banks in 1985 and 115 in 1996), fueled by prospects of quick profits in an environment lacking in supervision and transparency. In order to attract deposits, indigenous banks paid higher interest rates while relying on injections of funds from government and parastatals. In return, they provided high-risk loans and subsidies.

The Central Bank of Nigeria in 1991 attempted to regulate lending, make provision for bad loans and strengthen the capital base. A ban on new banking licenses in the same year, however, gave rise to a growth of non-banking financial institutions, such as currency exchanges, community banks and mortgage banks that could be established with very little capital. In 1991, the minimum paid-up capital requirement was raised to \$40 million.

Problems grew because of excessive risk taking, poor asset quality, fraud, an inhibitory policy environment, a lack of trained staff when banking mushroomed in the 1980s and the many political appointments. By the end of 1997, 26 of Nigeria's banks had been liquidated because they failed to raise equity bases up to the new 500 million naira (\$5.8 million) level. CBN then gave other "distressed" banks until Dec. 31, 1998 to pay up. According to a Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation report, deposits of 49 billion naira — 29 percent of all deposits — were with banks classified as "distressed," and 49 percent of loans were nonperforming.

A place of contradictions and enormous vitality, Nigeria is poised to implement some very sophisticated banking technology that will theoretically move the coun-

try toward a cashless society in a country where cash is problematic.

A consortium of 19 banks (representing 70 percent of banking sector assets), including Citibank Nigeria and Crédit Lyonnais Nigeria, have introduced smart cards, to be managed by a new joint-stock company, Smart Card Nigeria Plc, which is owned by IBM and Card Services International, a Dublin company.

The first batch of cards will be in circulation in December 1998 and will cost \$2.1 million. ■

"BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES IN AFRICA" was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune. WRITER: Jane Borges in London. PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Bill Mahder.

## African Development Bank Group

*When I grow up I will be the Director or even Chairman of the Board!*



### Development of Private Enterprise

Just like this little boy, many Africans are full of ambition for themselves and their countries, and possess skills equal to those of the company president! The private sector, with limitless possibilities for a lasting and stable development of the continent, must be aided and encouraged.

Within the ADB, the Department in charge of the development of private sector in Africa (OPSD), has the responsibility of putting into action the policies and strategy of the Bank in this area. The Bank has already granted loans and equities of USD 125 million, in favor of projects with a total cost of about USD 700 million. Assisted projects covered a wide range of sectors including infrastructure projects, financial institutions, manufacturing, mining, agro-business and tourism.

The ADB offers direct assistance without government guarantees to private enterprises and financial institutions through terms loans, equity participations, quasi-equity investments, guarantees and underwriting. The Bank also extends lines of credit to private financial institutions for on lending to small and medium enterprises.

The African Development Bank has equally initiated

and upheld efforts towards the creation of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank). As part of its efforts to promote entrepreneurship and improve management of African enterprises, the Bank has also co-sponsored, with sister organizations, the creation of the Africa Project Development Facility (APDF) and the African Management Services Company (AMSCO), while redefining methods of more intense collaboration with non-governmental organizations.

The Bank will provide advisory services to African member countries on ways to improve the environment for private enterprise functioning and develop capital markets.

Through the African Development Fund (ADF), the ADB Group has launched new ways to assist African microenterprises under its "AMINA" (ADF Microfinance Initiative for Africa) Program. This initiative will strengthen the capacity of microfinance institutions such as NGOs, village banks and credit unions to provide an appropriate range of financial services including savings and microcredit to the backbone of Africa's future prosperity the micro-entrepreneurs, especially women.

## BUILDING A FUTURE FOR AFRICA

For further information, Private Sector Development Department (OPSD)  
Tel. (225) 20 41 68 - Fax. (225) 20 49 64  
Communications Unit (COMU) - 01 BP 1387 Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) - Tel. (225) 20 41 18  
Fax. (225) 20 40 06 - Email: comu@afdb.org - Web Site: www.afdb.org

**ADB. Africa's Bank**

### AFRICA'S MULTILATERAL LENDER



African Development Bank President Omar Kabba.

The African Development Bank Group, which includes the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund (the bank's soft loan arm) and the Abidjan-based Nigeria Trust Fund, makes loans and equity investment for the economic development and social progress of the 53 member countries on the continent. The bank's focus is on agriculture, public utilities, transport, industry, health and education. Poverty reduction, the environment, gender and corporate governance — the so called cross-cutting issues — are part of its "broad menu" for the continent's development.

"It is important to keep the African character of the ADB," said Philippe de Fontaine Vive, France's representative in Abidjan, on the decision in June of this year to increase the bank's capital by 35 percent (\$7.65 billion) and change its voting percentages. "Its capital, its administrative rules, its leaders reflect the diversity of Africa."

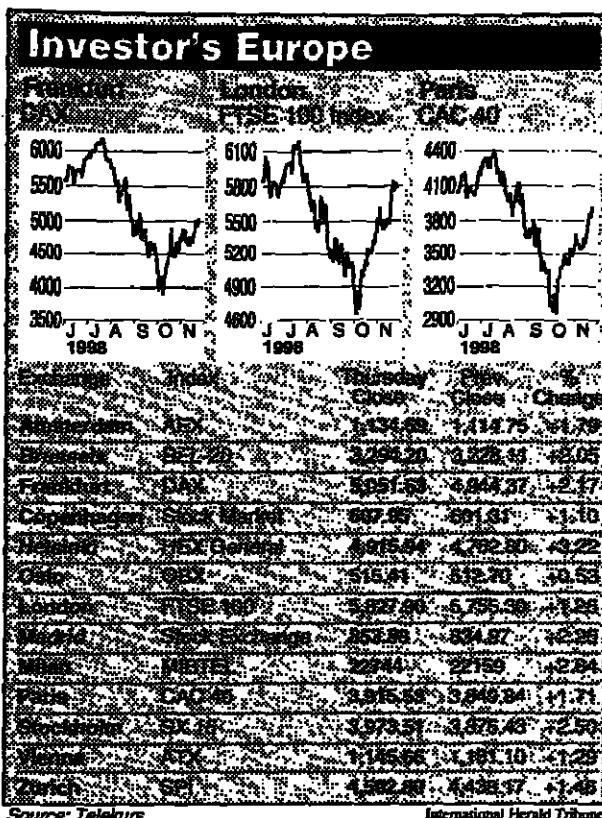
The equity share of the nonregional members — the United States, Japan and the European countries — was raised from 35 percent to 40 percent, with an increased vote of 66 percent.

Non-African members provided credit for the 39 African countries that do not qualify for nonconcessional credit on grounds of poverty.

The bank's president, Moroccan Omar Kabba, who was a director of the World Bank and the IMF, has presided over far-reaching reforms of the AFD that are doing much to raise the credibility of the bank in the international arena and in the eyes of other multilaterals.



## EUROPE



## Very briefly:

- British Airways PLC, Europe's largest carrier, bought its franchise partner CityFlyer Express for £75 million (\$126.3 million) to expand its position at London's Gatwick airport, where it will have 42 percent of takeoff and landing slots. But Richard Branson, the entrepreneur behind Virgin Atlantic Airways, a BA rival, plans to lodge a complaint with Britain's competition watchdog.
- Laura Ashley Holdings PLC, a British clothing and home-furnishings retailer, plans to close factories in Oswestry, Wales, and Helmond, Netherlands, and may shut three others as it struggles to sell them as part of a reorganization. It said the cost of the moves would be covered by a £9 million provision announced previously.
- British manufacturing orders remain weak, output expectations are markedly negative, and a recession in the manufacturing industry looks increasingly likely, the Confederation of British Industry said in its latest survey.
- Fiat SpA's stock rose on speculation the Agnelli family could incorporate Fiat into its main holding company, IFI SpA, while spinning off Fiat Auto as part of a strategy to streamline its interests. Fiat closed at 5,528 lire (\$3.29), up 350.
- John Mansfield Group PLC, a British timber company, plans to bid for Marley PLC in an offer that values the building-products company at £283 million.
- Allianz AG's premium income rose 18.7 percent, to 76 billion Deutsche marks (\$44.7 billion), in the first nine months of the year, helped mostly by the acquisition of Assurances Generales de France SA this year.
- J. Sainsbury PLC of Britain agreed to buy closely held Star Markets Holdings Inc. from Investcorp International for \$490 million in cash and assumed debt, expanding its presence in the northeastern United States.

Bloomberg, Reuters

## EU Closes 3 Telecom Inquiries

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said Thursday it had closed three of its investigations into connection charges for calls between fixed and mobile phone networks after the telecommunications companies changed their practices.

The inquiries involved Telecom Italia, Telefonica of Spain and Telecom Eireann of Ireland. The commission also said it had suspended its investigation into charges by Deutsche Telekom and the Dutch operator KPN Telecom for connecting mobile-to-fixed calls and another involving KPN's retention of revenue for calls from fixed to mobile phones because national authorities had taken up the cases.

However, the commission said it was continuing to investigate Post & Telekom Austria, Telecom Italia, Deutsche Telekom, Belgacom and Telefonica over such calls.

The commission said Telecom Italia had stopped charging more to connect calls from mobile operators than from fixed operators, reducing charges for mobile companies by about 40 percent. It said it had closed the case against Telefonica after the Spanish telecommunications regulator insisted that the company's proposed interconnection fees apply to mobile as well as fixed operators, and Telecom Eireann announced prices that would reduce the revenue it kept from fixed-to-mobile calls, the commission added.

The commission began the inquiries in July after uncovering 14 cases of what it called "potentially excessive or discriminatory" prices for wireless communications in the 15-country European Union market that was opened to competition at the start of the year. It was part of an effort to enforce deregulation of the EU telecommunications industry.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

## Russia Tells Creditors It Can't Pay Soviet Debt

Moscow's Warning on \$28 Billion Obligation Signals Western Bankers to Expect a Default

By Alan Cowell  
New York Times Service

LONDON — Crippled by economic crisis and desperate for international aid, Russia has told Western bankers that it will not meet payment terms on \$28 billion in Soviet-era debt to commercial creditors, effectively paving the way for a default on interest payments next month, bankers said Thursday.

The Russian position emerged from three days of negotiations this week between Russian officials and the so-called London Club, a loose assembly of more than 600 Western commercial creditors.

The upshot of the discussion, according to Russian officials and Western bankers, was that Russia would not meet previously agreed terms to pay half of a \$724 million interest repayment due Wednesday in cash and has offered instead to pay in bonds worth only some 13 percent of their face value.

In a further sign of trouble, bankers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said separate negotiations on \$10 billion in ruble-denominated domestic debt owed to foreigners had divided Western creditors over whether to accept new Russian terms.

"The issue is whether they should give any form of acknowledgment or not," said a committee of 18 banks meets here Friday to discuss the Russian offer, said a banker who asked not to be identified by name. "No one feels there's been much achievement."

Russia announced a moratorium on debt Aug. 17 and allowed the value of the ruble to slide. Since then, it has failed to reach agreement with the International Monetary Fund on economic policies that would free \$4.3 billion of a \$22.6 billion bailout package.

Mikhail Kasyanov, the deputy finance minister, has signaled deepening troubles by saying Russia will be able to pay back less than \$10 billion of the \$17 billion in foreign debt that falls due in 1999.

The negotiations with the London Club centered on terms agreed in 1997 setting out a schedule of repayments of debts from the former Soviet Union whose principal is dominated in so-called principal bonds. Under the 1997 agreement, half of the interest due next Wed-

nesday was to be paid in cash and half in bonds called interest arrears notes. Instead, Russia now wants to pay the whole \$724 million by issuing new interest arrears notes.

To fulfill earlier agreements, 95 percent of creditors must agree to accept payment in new paper, but most of the holders of interest arrears notes are believed to be dispersed.

Russian officials say a separate interest payment of \$216 million will be made in cash, but the London Club did not confirm this. Mr. Kasyanov said Wednesday that London Club members had agreed in principle to accept the whole interest payment in the notes, but bankers said creditors had not agreed.

"To most lay people, it's definitely a default," said a banker who spoke on condition of anonymity. "They are not going to pay. We are not even at the date, and they have already announced that they are not going to pay, and they are trying to get the creditors to accept that."

In separate discussions, Russian officials have offered a complicated mix of repayments of some \$10 billion in domestic ruble debt that was part of the \$40 billion Treasury debt frozen in August.

Effectively, though, the Russian offer would permit foreign creditors to repatriate only \$550 million staggered over a one-year period of monthly central bank auctions.

The rest would be swapped for a variety of ruble securities useful only for transactions inside Russia.

A negotiating committee led by Deutsche Bank AG and Credit Suisse First Boston is to present the Russian proposal to a larger banking group Friday, but some of those close to the discussions said there was little unity among creditors about the value of the deal.

"It's not that anybody thinks that the Russians could have been moved more" in the negotiations, said one banker close to the discussions. "It's a question of whether

it's worth reacting to it."

Konstantin Korshachenko, a Russian central bank official, said Wednesday that the offer was the best available.

"Investors could not ask for more than we offered, because there was no way we could improve conditions of the swap," he told Bridge News.

## Gold-Backed Loan Plan

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development said it was working on a plan to lend money to Russian gold producers through the acquisition of Russian gold-backed certificates, Reuters reported from Moscow.

"We are discussing this plan. It is at an early stage," said Ned Parson, the bank's chief representative in Russia. The loan would be used to finance the companies' production, on the basis that they would deliver a specified amount of gold at the end of the period, which would then be sold at market prices to repay the loan.

## France Posts Sluggish 3d-Quarter Growth

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — The French economy grew at its slowest pace in a year and a half in the third quarter, statistics showed Thursday, and business confidence fell in November to an 18-month low as companies pared inventories in anticipation of slowing exports.

French gross domestic product rose 0.5 percent in the quarter after expanding 0.8 percent in the second quarter. That growth rate was the lowest since the first quarter of 1997. Weaker inventories cut French growth by half a percentage point, the government agency Insee said, as business confidence fell to its lowest level since May 1997.

The government said it stood by its forecast of growth of 2.7 percent next year despite data that show the economy slowing.

Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn called the downturn an "air bubble."

He said there was "no reason to worry" and that 1998 was unfolding as expected. "For the moment, we just have to wait for a return of confidence," he said.

France is the second-largest econ-

omy among the 11 European countries that are adopting a single currency Jan. 1, and the slowdown in growth was viewed as giving the new European Central Bank room to cut interest rates.

Stephane Deo, a Paris-based economist at Goldman, Sachs & Co., said the probability of a cut in interest rates in Europe had "risen significantly."

A cut might be announced as soon as Dec. 22, he said, when the European Central Bank is to fix the rate at which it will conduct its first money-market operation after tak-

ing control of interest rates for the countries that will use the European currency, the euro.

Many analysts do not expect France and Germany to cut their benchmark rates from the current 3.30 percent before ending rate-cutting authority to the new central bank, because other countries in the currency union are still trying to bring their rates down to that level.

The Bank of France left its intervention rate unchanged Thursday at 3.30 percent. Its monetary-policy council is to meet Dec. 3.

(Bloomberg, AFP)

## Crises Hold Back ING Profit

Bridge News

LONDON — ING Groep NV said Thursday its net profit rose 42 percent in the first nine months of the year, but it said earnings growth had been held back by the financial crises in Asia and Russia.

ING earned 4.86 billion guilders (\$2.53 billion) in the period, up from 3.42 billion guilders a year earlier. But the group's banking arm, ING

Barings, had a substantial loss in the third quarter as trading came under pressure from "hectic developments" in financial markets, ING said. The unit's pre-tax operating loss for the third quarter alone was 330 million guilders.

Net profit from banking in the nine-month period fell 4 percent, to 1.51 billion guilders, and operating profit was down 42 percent.

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, Nov. 26  
Dollars in local currencies.

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam

High Low Close Prev.

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## INTERNATIONAL INVESTING

# Analysts See Further Rise In Surging Pearson Shares

**Bloomberg News**  
LONDON — Although shares of Pearson PLC have risen 46 percent so far this year, they are likely to rise further, many analysts say, as Britain's third-largest media company sells off unwanted units. The units were acquired through a \$4.6 billion purchase of Simon & Schuster's educational-publishing business.

A plan to sell titles such as Betty Crocker cookbooks for \$860 million to the venture-capital firm Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Inc. collapsed this week, leaving Pearson with unwanted businesses, extra debt and a credit downgrade by Standard & Poor's Corp.

Still, Pearson's chief executive, Marjorie Scardino, has proven she can scale back businesses. She has sold units valued at more than \$1.66 billion since January 1997, when she arrived at the company. While that has helped lift the stock 54 percent since then, many analysts still recommend that clients buy Pearson shares.

In late London trading Thursday, Pearson's shares were up 31 pence at £11.53.

"I don't think they'll have any problem at all," said Louise Barton, an analyst at Henderson Crosswhite Institutional Brokers, who has a "buy" rating on Pearson. "If they can secure one buyer, they will attempt to do that, but if they get a better price by selling it piecemeal, they'll do that."

Miss Scardino has sold units such as the Minicase Inc. software business and Madame Tussaud's wax museums. Her aim has been to focus on the company's television and publishing businesses, which include the Financial Times and Penguin Books.

The purchase of Simon & Schuster's educational-publishing business, Pearson's largest acquisition ever, made it the world's biggest educational publisher. Combining it with Pearson's own Addison Wesley Longman division also will enable it to reduce costs by \$130 million a year by 2000, the company said.

The purchase under U.S. antitrust approval Monday on the condition that Pearson sell some small parts of the business. But more important, the sale to Hicks Muse — which was agreed to in July — fell through. That will leave Pearson with £2.5 billion (\$4 billion) in debt at the end of this year, analysts said, compared with £707 million at the end of 1997.

Publishers such as Reed Elsevier PLC, Wolters Kluwer NV and VNU NV are ex-

pected to show interest in the newly available units, which include titles such as Webster's New World Dictionary and Betty Crocker cookbooks, analysts said.

"It's slightly disappointing, but I don't think it's a disaster," said Vignesh Padhiach, an analyst at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, who rates Pearson shares as likely to outperform the market.

But the company was downgraded by S&P on Wednesday, making it harder to sell bonds to refinance its \$6 billion in bank loans.

S&P put Pearson's debt rating under review after the Simon & Schuster acquisition was announced in May and said it expected to lower the rating once the purchase was concluded, reflecting the new debt burden and the late stage of its economic cycle. The rating could be lowered again if it doesn't "rapidly" sell units to cut debt and interest costs, S&P said.

Beyond the Simon & Schuster sales, Pearson has several other ways to raise money, analysts said. It is expected to sell its 4.3 percent stake in British Sky Broadcasting Group PLC for about £250 million after tax and could put some other small businesses on the block, said Meg Geldens, an analyst at Merrill Lynch who rates Pearson a "buy."

The company also raised £328 million before expenses by issuing new shares in August.

Not everyone is optimistic, however. Paul Richards, an analyst at WestLB Panmure, advocates cutting back on Pearson stock, which he says is worth 960 pence a share. He points out that several of Pearson's businesses are heavily dependent on advertising revenue, which is likely to fall during an economic slowdown. That will make it more difficult for Pearson to cover its higher debt payments.

## ■ 'Active Year' Seen for Media Mergers

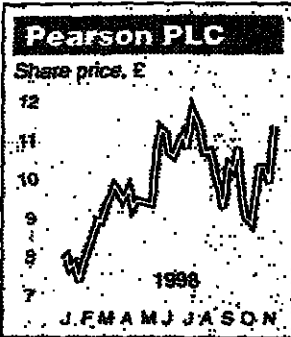
Europe's media companies can look forward to more mergers next year as the single European currency creates a "honeymoon period" for potential partners, a top executive at the Dutch bank ABN-AMRO said Thursday, Reuters reported from London.

David Soskin, ABN-AMRO's London-based director of global media mergers and acquisitions, said he expected media mergers and acquisitions to speed up in 1999, lifted by the introduction of the euro in January.

"I think 1999 will be a very, very active year — more than this year," Mr. Soskin said.



Marjorie Scardino



# 50-Year Swiss Bond Finds Few Takers

**Bloomberg News**  
ZURICH — The Swiss government, rebuffed twice this year when it tried to sell 30-year bonds, wanted to see whether investors would be more interested in even longer-term bonds. They weren't.

Investors bought only 189 million francs (\$134 million) of the 1 billion francs of 50-year bonds the government put up for sale Wednesday. It was the first time the government had sold bonds with such a long maturity, as well as its last bond auction of the year.

The problem was that the market for a 50-year bond would be so small, it would be difficult to buy and sell, investors said. Those who did buy it — pension funds, for example — would hold on to it until it matured halfway through the 21st century.

Even the benchmark 10-year bond is illiquid, never mind a 50-year bond, said Hans Hollenweger, a fund manager at Guyerzeller Bank, who did not buy any 50-year bonds. "Once you buy this one, it's yours for life."

The Swiss bonds have the longest

maturity of any bond ever sold by a Western European country, though governments such as China and U.S. companies have sold so-called "century" bonds, or 100-year debt, in recent years.

Switzerland's 30-year bond auctions this year foreshadowed the low demand at Wednesday's sale. In September, the government sold just 170 million francs of an offered 1 billion francs of 30-year bonds, and in March it sold 467 million francs of the 2 billion francs on offer. Before 1998, Switzerland had never sold a bond with a maturity longer than 20 years.

The country's Treasury has an incentive to keep trying to sell long-dated bonds. While borrowing costs hover at record low yields, the government faces a projected federal budget deficit for 1998 of 7.6 billion francs, a record high, up from 5.5 billion francs last year.

The growing deficit means the government also has to sell 6.5 billion francs of bonds this year, up from 4.5 million francs in 1997.

Still, some investors said conditions

were ripe for Swiss bonds. Annual consumer-price inflation fell to zero in October, the lowest in Western Europe. With economic growth slowing — UBS, Europe's largest bank, predicts growth of 1.4 percent next year, slowing from 2.2 percent this year — inflation is not expected to be a problem for as long as three years, the vice president of the Swiss central bank, Bruno Gehrig, said this year.

Slow inflation is good news for bond investors because it means the securities will hold more of their value over time.

"Sure, Swiss bonds have done well, but then again anything could happen in 50 years," said Viktor Senn, a trader at ABN-AMRO Bank in Zurich.

Some investors said the government's attempt to sell long-dated bonds was an effort to help pension-fund managers achieve a 4 percent return on their investments, which is prescribed by Swiss law. The 50-year bond, which was priced to yield an annualized 4.095 percent, is currently the only Swiss government bond that yields more than 4 percent.

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November 26, 1998

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| 112 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A.<br>SWISS FUNDS<br>112.1 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>112.2 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>112.3 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>112.4 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>112.5 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>112.6 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>112.7 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>112.8 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>112.9 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>113 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>114 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>115 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>116 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>117 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>118 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>119 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>120 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>121 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>122 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>123 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>124 MERRILL LYNCH BANK (US) S.A. 220.00<br>125 MERRILL LYNCH BANK 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## ASIA/PACIFIC

## Sluggish Spending Is Seen Keeping Hong Kong Down

**Bloomberg News**  
**HONG KONG** — The government is expected to report Friday that Hong Kong's economy shrank 7 percent from a year earlier in the July-September quarter, its biggest contraction ever, because of plunging consumer spending and capital flight triggered by the Asian currency crisis.

The economy contracted 2.7 percent in the January-March quarter and 5.2 percent in April through June. The third-quarter decline expected by analysts would mark the first time since at least the early 1960s that the economy has shrunk in three consecutive quarters.

But some economists say the situation has finally bottomed out.

As evidence they point to the 62 percent jump in the benchmark Hang Seng stock index since Aug. 13 and signs that property prices have stabilized.

"The market is sending me signals which are turning me from a bear to a bull," said Mac Overton, a fund manager at MBF Capital Asia Ltd.

Property values plunged 55 percent in the 13 months through October as the former British colony plunged into recession.

Now, though, evidence of an upturn in the property market could be laying the foundation for a wider economic recovery.

As interest rates fall — Hong Kong banks cut their prime lending

rate to 9.5 percent from 9.75 percent last week — investors are betting that it is a good time to buy. Because seven out of 10 Hong Kong companies listed in real estate, rising property prices increase company profits across the board.

The 12 biggest property companies make up 22 percent of the Hang Seng stock index and have more than doubled in value as a group this year.

Still, hitting bottom does not mean an immediate return to growth, said Martin Cubbon, finance director at Swire Pacific Ltd., which owns controlling stakes in Cathay Pacific Airways and Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Co.

"There is still a lot of pain to get

through," Mr. Cubbon said, pointing to unemployment, which stands at a record 5.3 percent. Retail sales fell a record 21 percent in September from a year earlier, their 11th consecutive monthly decline, signaling that deflation remains a threat.

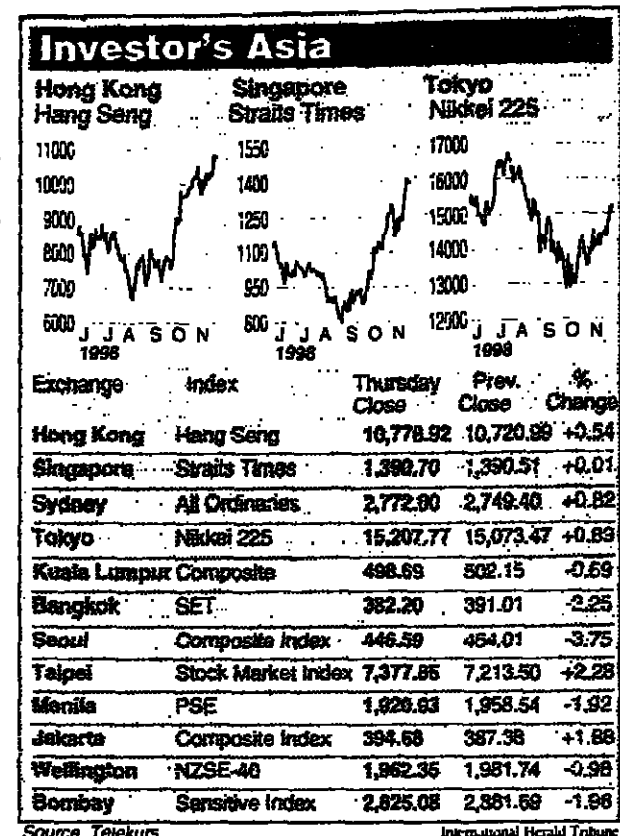
Consumer prices rose only 0.1 percent in October from a year earlier, prices of many goods actually fell at the retail level, and economists say the deflation could continue through next year if demand remained weak.

Hong Kong exports fell 17.5 percent in October from a year earlier as demand slackened in the United States and most of Europe, as well as in Japan, China and other Asian countries.

Exports totaled 119 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$15.37 billion). Imports fell 22.4 percent, to 118.7 billion dollars. The resulting narrower trade deficit reflected weaker domestic demand, analysts and economists said.

"The fourth quarter is going to be quite bad because the U.S. market has slowed down for Chinese exports," said Andy Xie, an economist at Morgan Stanley Asia Ltd.

Over all, corporate Hong Kong can expect a grim year in 1999, Mr. Cubbon said, because companies are not going to be able to raise prices.



## EXXON: Talking Takeover of Mobil

Continued from Page 1

The talks between Exxon and Mobil come with oil prices stuck near their lowest level in 12 years. The drop in oil prices has increased the pressure on oil companies to cut costs.

Exxon, which has a market value of \$176.7 billion, and Mobil, which has a market value of \$61.1 billion, both have histories of being fiercely independent, and both have already cut back on staff and made themselves lean to survive even a prolonged period of low oil prices. But this has been a particularly unsettling year for the oil industry, and there is little prospect that crude oil prices will recover soon.

Consequently, chief executives of most oil companies have had to swallow their pride and look for suitable partners. This summer, British Petroleum announced an agreement to buy Amoco Corp. for \$48.2 billion, creating the world's third-largest oil company and prompting analysts to predict even more widespread consolidation.

"It showed that megamergers are doable," said Adam Sieminski, an analyst for BT Alex. Brown.

He added, however, that any combination between Exxon and Mobil would not be an easy match because Mobil has been known as a proud company that has said in the past it would not want to merge. Exxon, Mr. Sieminski added, is a "well-run company that likes to grow its own businesses."

Mr. Sieminski said the heads of the two companies, Lee Raymond, the chairman of Exxon, which is based in Irving, Texas, and Lucio Noto, the chairman, president and

chief executive of Mobil, which is based in Fairfax, Virginia, were different personalities.

"It will not be easy," he said of combining the two companies, which have vast networks of refineries and gas stations that overlap in the United States and Europe.

Oil ministers attending a meeting in Vienna this week of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said they would welcome an Exxon takeover of Mobil.

Kuwait's oil minister, Sheikh Saud Nasser al-Sabah, said an agreement "would make our jobs easier, as we would have to deal with fewer companies."

Exxon and Mobil are under pressure to find new sources of oil. Like other oil companies, they had hoped to quickly tap into the vast reserves of Russia. But even though they were prepared to spend billions, they have held back because of the political and economic crisis in Russia and great reluctance by Russian officials and oil companies to give up control of vast fields.

Thus, they have had to fall back on exploration areas such as the deep waters in the Gulf of Mexico or in West Africa and parts of Asia. Such exploration is very expensive.

Analysts and investment bankers were split about the logic of a potential deal.

"Neither company is far," said Michael Mayer, an analyst at Schroder & Co. "Neither company says they are losing opportunities because of size."

Garfield Miller, president of Aegis Energy Advisors Corp., an independent investment bank based in New York, said: "If you asked me if Exxon needed to be bigger, the an-

## More Kia Debt To Be Forgiven

Reuters

**SEOUL** — Creditors of Kia Motors Corp. and its Asia Motors subsidiary have agreed to forgive more of the failing companies' debts, satisfying a condition of their prospective buyer, Hyundai Motors Co., Hyundai said Thursday.

Creditors agreed to write off an additional 219.4 billion won (\$175.9 million) of Asia Motors debt, bringing the total write-off to 7.39 trillion won.

Hyundai won the bidding for Kia and Asia Motors in October. But after examining Kia's books, it found more debt than originally disclosed and asked for a bigger write-off.

Hyundai is to sign a formal contract to take 51 percent stakes in the companies next week.

swear is probably no. It is hard to say that there is anything in particular to gain."

In particular, Mr. Miller said, the two companies have enormous similarities in their domestic refining and marketing businesses.

"They really do overlap quite a bit," he said. "You really do wonder what is the benefit of all that redundancy."

But Amy Jaffe, an energy research analyst with the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, said the combination of the two companies would be logical, in part because it would give them greater influence in bidding for development projects in the Middle East. (Bloomberg, NYT, AP)

## M&amp;S: Sparks Fly at British Retailer

Continued from Page 13

it after leaving the London School of Economics 28 years ago.

According to analysts, who spoke on condition of anonymity, Mr. Oates — with only 14 years' seniority — was seen as a newcomer with a financial rather than a retailing background.

Marks & Spencer pioneered the sale of prepared up-market food in its stores, only to be challenged by other Main Street retailers such as Tesco PLC and Sainsbury PLC. It purchased Brooks Brothers in the United States, but the acquisition — apart from introducing button-down Oxford-cloth shirts to a British mass market — has lost money.

A global expansion plan valued at \$3.7 billion was announced last year, just as consumer demand was about to falter. Sir Richard insisted on a high level of British content in his products that made them expensive in continental Europe.

The troubles came to a climax this month when Mr. Oates, the deputy chairman, sensed that he would be passed over for promotion to the top job when Sir Richard divided his titles, an event initially scheduled for next May. According to British press reports, Mr. Oates appealed to nonexecutive board members for



Sir Richard has appointed an heir, settling a power struggle.

support. That brought Sir Richard flying back from a vacation in India to put down the revolt and defend his management style.

"I'm not an ogre," he said. "I'm blunt, and I'm competitive." Mr. Oates said Thursday that he was "disappointed to be retiring early from Marks & Spencer." And Sir Richard said it was "very sad that, as part of the modernizing of our top management structure, there is no longer a full-time role for Keith."

## DO YOU LIVE IN SWEDEN?

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## Hitachi Posts Its First Loss

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatch

**TOKYO** — Hitachi Ltd., the largest Japanese electronics company, reported its first group loss ever Thursday as prices for computer-memory chips crashed, consumers spent less on household electronics, and companies cut capital investment.

The company posted a group net loss of 142.2 billion yen (\$1.17 billion) for the six months that ended Sept. 30, reversing a profit of 37.67 billion yen a year earlier. The loss was heavier than the 130 billion yen loss that Hitachi predicted in September. Sales dropped 6 percent, to 3.90 trillion yen from 4.17 trillion yen.

Hitachi said that in addition to the drop in chip prices, intensified price competition in the liquid crystal display sector hurt profit. Cuts in private-sector capital spending also weighed on earnings, it said.

In Japan, weak consumer demand weighed on sales of home electrical products such as television sets and refrigerators. Home-appliance revenue fell 6 percent, to 455.6 billion yen.

Hitachi, whose sales amounted to almost 2 percent of Japan's gross domestic product in the year that ended March 31, forecast a full-year group net loss of 250 billion yen — its first since it listed its shares in 1949 — and acknowledged it would be difficult for it to return to profit in the year ending in March 2000.

Hitachi, which has more than 330,000 employees worldwide, still relies on the Japanese market for 67 percent of its sales.

"Hitachi's a bellwether for Japan, and like Japan it's been slow to recognize its problems," said Dan Lucas, an analyst at Tova Securities Co. "It's got problems across its product portfolio, and it's difficult to see much value there."

Hitachi shares fell 4 yen to close at 760 on Thursday.

"Hitachi needs to restructure totally to recover," said Yoshiharu Izumi, an analyst at Warburg Dillon Read (Japan) Ltd. "If Hitachi just 'half-reforms' itself, or takes its foot off the pedal in the next six months, then recovery will be even slower in coming." (Bloomberg, APX)

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## ESPRIT (European Partners Investment Trust)

(hereinafter called "ESPRIT")  
 Société d'investissement à Capital Variable.  
 Registered office: L-2535 Luxembourg, 20 Boulevard Emmanuel Servais.  
 R. C. Luxembourg B 24.189

## SMALL CAP

Société d'investissement à Capital Variable.  
 Registered office: L-1840 Luxembourg, 7 Boulevard Joseph II.  
 R. C. Luxembourg B 33.256

## MERGER PROPOSAL ANNOUNCEMENT

## TAKE NOTICE THAT:

ESPRIT, an Investment Company with Variable Capital ("société d'investissement à capital variable"), whose registered office is situated at 20 Boulevard Emmanuel Servais L-2535 Luxembourg (hereinafter called "the Absorbing Company") and SMALL CAP, an Investment Company with Variable Capital ("société d'investissement à capital variable"), comprising a single open Sub-Fund, known as Small Cap European (hereinafter called "the Absorbed Sub-Fund"), whose registered office is situated at 7 Boulevard Joseph II L-1840 Luxembourg (together hereinafter called "the Companies") organized and existing as "société anonyme" and qualifying as société d'investissement à capital variable, entered on the list referred to in Article 72(1) of the Law of 30 March 1988 relating to undertakings for collective investment, subject to Part I of the Law of 30 March 1988 regarding undertakings for collective investments and fulfils the conditions imposed by the Council Directive of 20 December 1985 (85/611/EEC) and qualifying as undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities.

The Companies propose to merge their assets and professionalities with the intention of complementing their respective technical and financial activities, by combining all of these into ESPRIT which under its name shall carry out the business of the Companies and hold their assets and liabilities as at the Effective Date of the Merger.

ESPRIT will be a "société d'investissement à capital variable", structured as an umbrella fund with separate Sub-Funds each with its own distinct portfolio in terms of article 111 of the Law of 30 March 1988. At the Effective Date, ESPRIT will be comprised of the two following Sub-Funds: (i) ESPRIT - GLOBAL, holding all the assets of the Absorbing Company and (ii) ESPRIT - SMALL CAP (hereinafter called "the Absorbing Sub-Fund"), holding all the assets of the Absorbed Sub-Fund. The Boards of Directors of the Companies have declared that as of the Effective Date, the shareholders of the Absorbed Sub-Fund will receive in exchange for their shares, the same number of shares in the Absorbing Sub-Fund.

The Boards of Directors of the Companies (the "Directors") have approved the Merger with the objective that it should take effect on 29 January 1999 ("the Effective Date") subject to shareholder approval of the Companies being given at Extraordinary General Meetings of the Companies to be held on 28 December 1998.

The Merger Proposal duly signed on behalf of the Directors will be published in the Mémorial C on 27 November 1998. The invitations to shareholders for the Extraordinary General Meetings of the Absorbed Sub-Fund will be published in the Mémorial C, in the Luxembourgish Wort, in L'Echo de la Bourse and in De Financien Economische Tijd on 9 December 1998 and on 18 December 1998.

The Board of Directors of the Absorbing Company has appointed Touche Ross Luxembourg as independent expert in order to provide a report on the Merger Proposal and the Board of Directors of the Absorbed Sub-Fund has appointed K.P.M.G. Audit as independent expert in order to provide a report on the Merger Proposal.

It is hereby agreed as follows:

1. Subject to the approval of the shareholders of the Companies at the above-mentioned Extraordinary General Meetings of the Companies, the Absorbed Sub-Fund will transfer the whole of its assets and liabilities (its "net assets") at the close of business the day before the Effective Date, under section XIV sub-section 1 (fusion par absorption) of the Law of 1915, to the Absorbing Sub-Fund, subject to the condition that the rights attaching to their shares will be in all respects the same including the right to any future dividends.

2. In consideration of the transfer of the net assets of the Absorbed Sub-Fund, the Absorbing Sub-Fund will issue to the shareholders of the Absorbed Sub-Fund as many new shares in exchange for each share of the Absorbed Sub-Fund surrendered and cancelled at Effective Date, in accordance with the exchange report (the "Exchange Report") described below.

The method of the Exchange Report 29 January 1999 will be controlled by the independent experts under Article 266 paragraph 2 of the Law of 1915, as amended.

The independent experts have expressed their mutual opinion on the Exchange Report and their respective reports are available for inspection by shareholders of the Companies at their registered offices one month before the date of the Extraordinary General Meetings of the Companies.

3. Shareholders of the Absorbed Sub-Fund not wanting to change their shares of the Absorbing Sub-Fund are invited to redeem their shares without any charge, before the Effective Date.

4. Any shares of the Absorbed Sub-Fund for which redemption requests have not been received before the Effective Date shall be deemed to have been exchanged for the same number of shares in the Absorbing Sub-Fund.

5. Without any prejudice of point 4 above, after the Effective Date, bearer shareholders of the Absorbed Sub-Fund should deliver their bearer share certificate(s) to the registered office of the absorbing Sub-Fund in order to receive new bearer share certificate(s) of this Sub-Fund.

6. In consequence of the transactions described above, the Absorbed Sub-Fund will no longer exist after the Effective Date and the shareholders of the Absorbed Sub-Fund will become shareholders of the Absorbing Sub-Fund.

7. On the Effective Date all the net assets of the Absorbed Sub-Fund will be transferred to the Absorbing Sub-Fund.

8. The rights attached to the new shares in the Absorbing Sub-Fund issued to the shareholders of the Absorbed Sub-Fund in exchange for their shares will be pari passu with and in all respects the same, including the right to any future dividends.

9. The report of the Board of Directors and of the independent expert are and will remain available for inspection by the shareholders at the registered offices of the Companies one month before the date of the Extraordinary General Meetings of the Companies, with the audited annual report and accounts, and Directors' Report for the financial years ended 31 December 1995-1997 and the unaudited semi-annual accounts for the period ended 30 June 1998.

Agreed by and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Esprit and by and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Small Cap on 17 November 1998.

ESPRIT  
 Mr Michel DELAPLACE  
 Directeur  
 Mr Benoît DE HULST  
 Directeur

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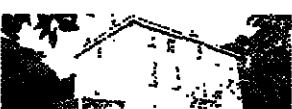
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## SPORTS

## Baggio Strikes to Lift Inter Milan

By Peter Berlin  
International Herald Tribune

MILAN — The emotional tides in soccer matches run unpredictably and can turn swiftly.

Inter Milan was the inferior team for most of the match, indeed it played as if it believed it was the inferior team. Yet it was lifted to victory by just such a sudden change near the end of its match against Real Madrid.

In the euphoric final five minutes in which Roberto Baggio scored twice, Inter's 3-1 victory seemed the logical outcome.

The triumph, combined with Spartak Moscow's 0-0 draw with Sturm Graz, carried Inter to the top of the Champions League Group C. The six group winners and the two second-place teams with the most points will reach the final eight.

Inter provided stark proof that money may buy you the best players but it doesn't buy you a coherent team. In 1997, Inter broke the bank to add the best striker in the world, Ronaldo, to its existing attack of Ivan Zamorano, Youri Djorkaeff and Maurizio Ganz.

Along with Ronaldo, Massimo Moratti, the Inter president, has added Nwankwo Kanu, a Nigerian star, Alvaro Recoba, a young Uruguayan, and, this summer, Baggio and Nicola Ventola.

In one sense the approach has been justified. Kanu has still not fully recovered from heart surgery. Ventola is injured. Ronaldo has missed a string of games this season.

But star players do not like sitting on the bench, however well they are paid. Ganz defected to Inter's local rival AC Milan last season. How long will Djorkaeff, a star in the World Cup final in July, be prepared to sit and watch as he did Wednesday?

Great players are not interchangeable. Djorkaeff is different in style from Ronaldo, who is different from Zamorano, and so on. This is a team built to serve Ronaldo. Luigi Simoni, Inter's beleaguered coach, started Ronaldo, who had missed three games, for this crucial match.

For the first 50 minutes, most of the Inter team seemed content to wait for Ronaldo and Zamorano to win the game. The midfield and defense harried furiously when Real had the ball but froze when it won possession. Yet Ronaldo lacked his usual verve. Only Zamorano, playing against his former team, posed any threat.

Madrid looked menacing every time it counterattacked. Yet Real, which started the evening as group leader, did not seem to be in any hurry to press its advantage.

After 50 minutes, Inter attacked. While Zamorano searched for space energetically in the penalty area, his teammates timidly passed the ball, and the back 20 meters from goal. Finally, Ronaldo launched a hopeful shot. Fortune smiled on Inter and rewarded Zamorano for his efforts. The ball struck

the Chilean and deflected into the goal.

Now that it had to score, Real quickly did so. Clarence Seedorf's close-range header flew into the Inter net.

Real started to tease Inter. Gangs of Inter players vainly chased the ball, arriving just after it had already been

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

passed to the next Real player. As each pass was completed, the few hundred Real fans chanted "Ole" as though they were at a bullfight. Yet Real's strikers could not turn this domination into goals.

With 22 minutes to play, Simoni brought on the tricky Baggio in place of the aggressive Zamorano. It seemed a vain gamble. Yet something had changed. The goal had energized Ronaldo who started running at the Real defense. The players and fans who had been waiting for Ronaldo to lead them responded. Whenever it wrestled the ball away from Real, Inter hurled itself into attack. Suddenly a team that had been outplayed and out-thought was carried forward on a wave of emotional energy.

With four minutes to play, Baggio found space where none had existed before and thumped a shot into the Real goal.

Spartak Moscow 0, Sturm Graz 0 In Moscow, Graz gained its first point in Group C. Victory would have ensured Spartak a place in the next round. Instead, it now needs to win in Madrid in the final round of matches in two weeks.

Ajax 0, Croatia Zagreb 1 Josip Simic, a substitute, scored the only goal of the game in Amsterdam as the Croatian champion kept alive its slim chances of advancing.

Olympique 2, Porto 1 Dimitris Eleftheropoulos saved a penalty as the Greeks beat Porto in Piraeus.

Porto was eliminated and

Olympiakos needs a draw in Zagreb in the last match to win Group A.

Rosenborg Trondheim 2, Athletic Bilbao 1 Ian Derek Sorensen scored twice as Rosenborg, the Norwegian champion, beat visiting Bilbao in Group B. The result eliminated the Basques. It also means Juventus, a finalist the past three years, must win its postponed match against Galatasaray to avoid early elimination.

Barcelona 3, Manchester United 3 Manchester United eliminated Barcelona in the second 3-3 draw between the two in Group D.

Bayern Munich 2, Brondby 0 Carsten Janker and Mario Basler scored to lift the German champion to the top of Group D. It needs only to draw in Manchester in two weeks, but even if it loses should advance as one of the two best second-place teams.

Arsenal 0, Lens 1 The French Champion eliminated Arsenal in Group E. Michael Debeve scored the game-winner in the 73rd minute to put Lens top of the group.

Tony Vairelles of Lens and Ray Parlour of Arsenal were sent off after a scuffle in the final minute. Vairelles, Eric Sykora and Cyril Rool, who both received their second yellow card of the competition, will miss the French Champion's showdown with Dynamo Kiev in Lens in two weeks.

Dynamo Kiev 2, Panathinaikos 1 In Kiev, the ball bounced off the back of Angelos Basinas, an Panathinaikos defender, 11 minutes from time gave Dynamo victory over the Greeks and put it level on points with Lens.

Benfica 2, Kaiserslautern 1 The German champion lost in Lisbon but still ensured that it would win Group F when Jürgen Rische scored in the dying seconds. The goal gave Kaiserslautern a superior head-to-head record over the Portuguese team and guaranteed it a quarterfinal berth.

## Progress on Drug Agency

The Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Plans are proceeding for the creation of an independent agency next year that will spearhead the fight against drugs in sports around the world, the project's coordinator said Thursday.

Dick Pound, vice president of the International Olympic Committee, said experts had reached a "high degree of consensus" on the structure, mandate and financing of the agency. Pound, who heads an IOC working group on the financial aspects of the anti-drug fight, said the agency could be up and running in early 1999 with initial funding of \$25 million.

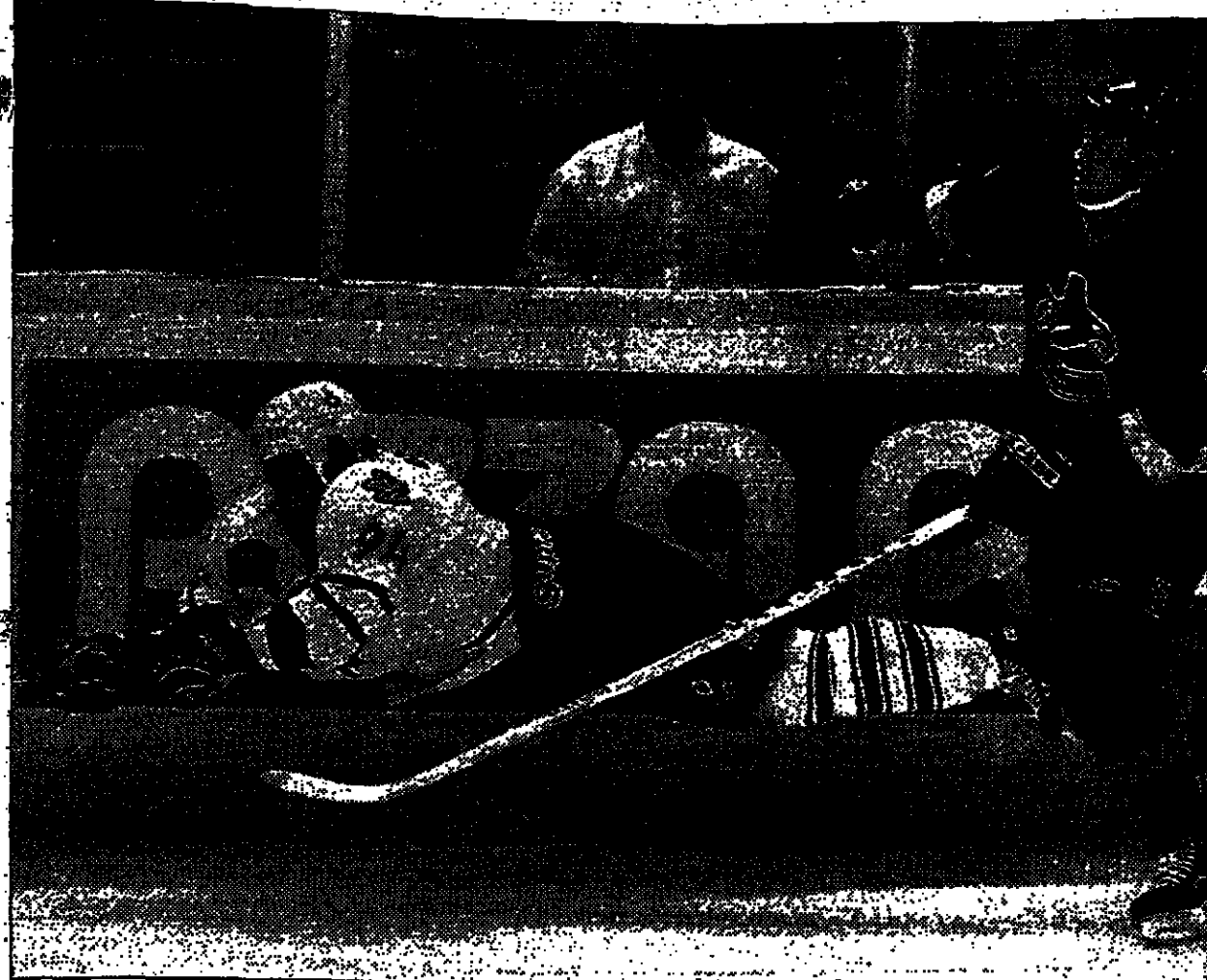
The IOC initiative, launched in the wake of the drug scandals that rocked

the Tour de France last summer, was to be discussed Friday at a meeting of Olympic leaders and international sports federations.

The IOC hopes the drug agency will get the final go-ahead at the world summit meeting on the issue in Lausanne beginning Feb. 2.

Pound said the agency would be an independent body run by representatives of the IOC, international federations, national Olympic committees and international governmental organizations. The private sector, including sponsors and drug manufacturers, would also participate.

"Everyone will have equal representation," Pound said from Montreal.



The Leafs' Sergei Berezin being pulled down by Canucks' defenseman Adrian Ancoino, who got a penalty.

## Hurricanes Flail the Sharks, 3-0

The Associated Press

Keith Primeau scored twice and goaltender Trevor Kidd returned to last year's form as the Carolina Hurricanes defeated the San Jose Sharks, 3-0.

The victory Wednesday night snapped a three-game losing streak for the Hurricanes, while the Sharks remained the NHL's only winless team on the road, falling to 0-5-3 away from home.

## NHL ROUNDUP

home. Kidd finished second in the NHL last season in save percentage and fifth in goals-against average, but was relegated to a backup role after a slow start and the excellent play of Arturs Irbe.

But Kidd shined in his first action since Nov. 11 — a span of six games. He was razor-sharp with his glove in making 36 saves to record his 14th career shutout.

Sabres 4, Rangers 2 Petr Nedved returned to the New York Rangers in a five-player trade with Pittsburgh, but Darryl Shannon scored a power-play goal in the third period for the Sabres, unbeaten in their last six games at home

(5-0-1) and unbeaten in their last eight games against the Rangers (5-0-3).

Capitals 5, Penguins 4 Peter Bondra scored on a powerful slap shot from the top of the right circle with 3:48 remaining to give Washington a victory over visiting Pittsburgh.

Bondra had two goals and an assist for 502 career points and Chris Simon had a goal and two assists for the Capitals, who broke a two-game losing streak.

Bruins 1, Panthers 0 Sergei Samsonov scored a power-play goal late in the second period and goaltender Byron Dafoe made 26 saves as visiting Boston defeated Florida to extend its road unbeaten streak to five games.

Dafoe notched his fourth shutout of the season to tie for the league lead and the 11th of his eight-year career.

Red Wings 5, Mighty Ducks 2 Sergei Fedorov had a goal and an assist in a three-goal first period, leading host Detroit over Anaheim.

Darren McCarty, Tomas Holmstrom, Brendan Shanahan and Igor Larionov also scored goals and Larry Murphy added two assists for the Red Wings, who have won three straight after losing six of eight.

Maple Leafs 5, Canucks 1 Toronto continued its domination of Western Conference teams, defeating visiting Vancouver in a battle of the two highest scoring teams in the NHL.

Islanders 4, Flyers 2 Tommy Salo stopped 44 shots as host New York snapped Philadelphia's four-game winning streak. The Islanders won despite managing only 14 shots to the Flyers' 46.

Predators 4, Flames 3 Tom Fitzgerald had the game-winning third period goal as Nashville scored three straight goals to beat Calgary.

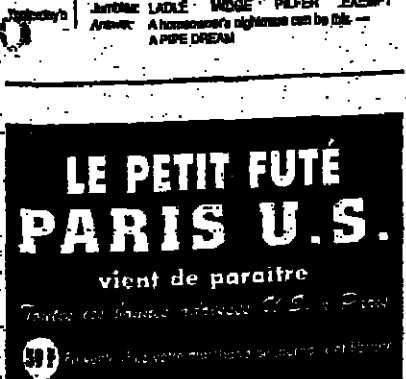
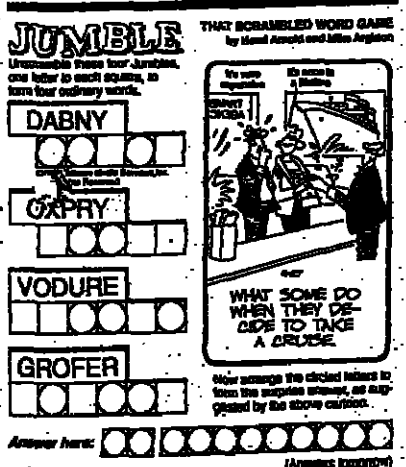
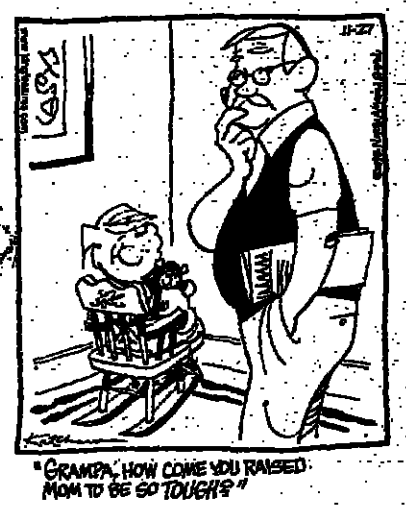
Fitzgerald fired a high shot from the slot off a pass from behind the net by Vitali Yachmenev 10:23 into the third.

Devils 5, Stars 2 Brian Rolston, Jay Pandolfo and Sergei Brylin all scored in the game's first 7:28 and visiting New Jersey held off a third-period Dallas rally.

The Devils entered the game in first place in the Atlantic Division and the Stars were in second place in the Pacific.

Oilers 3, Avalanche 0 Mikhail Shtalenkov stopped 26 shots for his fourth career shutout as Edmonton beat visiting Colorado.

## DENNIS THE MENACE



## PEANUTS



## GARFIELD



## BEETLE BAILEY



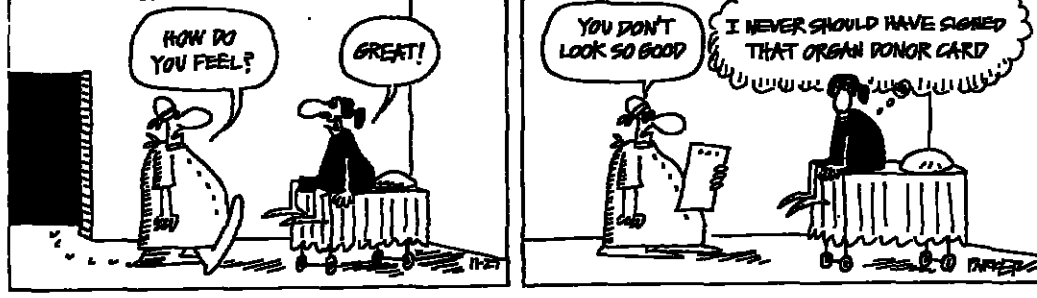
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## POSTCARD

## But Is It Art? Well, Sure

By Shirley Christian  
New York Times Service

LAWRENCE, Kansas — Maria Elena Buszek, self-described nerdy graduate student who reads comic books, recalls having a drink in a Chicago bar when her eyes were drawn to a pinup girl tattooed on the arm of the bartender.

"He slumped my bourbon down in front of me, and I grabbed his wrist and said, 'That's a gorgeous Penny Girl.' He said, 'Everybody thinks it's a Varga,' and I said, 'No, there's a difference.'"

That difference has been a consuming interest since 1994, shortly after Buszek arrived at the University of Kansas on a graduate fellowship in art history and learned that the university's Spencer Museum of Art was the repository of a matchless collection of the original airbrushed watercolors of pinup art published by Esquire magazine.

The impossibly perfect females created by Alberto Vargas (editors at Esquire made him drop the "s" when signing his work because they thought it sounded like a possessive), George Petty and others accompanied American men through the depths of the Depression and to the battlefronts of World War II and Korea.

Bob Hope was once quoted as saying, "Our American troops are ready to fight at the drop of an Esquire."

The issue of how to handle a collection that has the potential to embarrass a serious art museum but is admired by some people as magnificent art produces consternation and a touch of defensiveness among Buszek's elders at the helm of the Spencer, people with a little gray in their hair and sensibilities shaped by the 1960s and '70s.

The question has come up off and on in the 18 years since Esquire donated its archives to the university, but it has acquired more currency with the rising prices such art brings at auctions and in galleries. Rough estimates indicate that the approximately 300 pinup pieces at the Spencer — about half of them by Vargas — may be worth \$10 million to \$20 million. Museum officials ask themselves whether to seek grants for a major exhibition of the material with scholarly analyses and a hundred color reproductions. Should they lend it to commercial galleries or let a Japanese aficionado mount a touring exhibition and — Heaven forbid — make a profit for both himself and the museum? Or should they keep it tucked away in its temperature- and light-controlled vault, available only for scholarly study?

Stephen Goddard, senior curator of prints and drawings, with primary responsibility for the collection, has maintained a policy of making it available not only to scholars but also to those who make pilgrimages to this campus atop the bluffs of the Kaw River. "One family that came from California was in fashion design," he said.

"They were interested in Vargas art from the standpoint of shoes and apparel. A number of people are interested in the art for design reasons." Others, he noted, are into nostalgia and admire the Esquire Collection as the inspiration for pinups painted on the noses of aircraft in World War II. They are especially thrilled by the original of Petty's "Memphis Belle," which adorned the noses of many bombers. One of the few times the Spencer lent its pinup art was for the opening of a new hangar at the Memphis Belle Museum.

"Some people see it as great art," Goddard said. "One man said, 'You want to tell me that Michelangelo was a great artist, but for me this is better.'"

Many artists drew pinups for Esquire after it began publication in 1933 as a magazine aimed at affluent men with a taste for stylish clothes and beautiful women, but George Petty emerged from the pack early. By 1940, Esquire thought he was demanding too much money, so it brought in Alberto Vargas, a Peruvian-born artist who had already made a name drawing the stars of Florenz Ziegfeld's shows. Vargas left Esquire in 1946, put the "s" back on his last name, and did illustrations for other media, including Playboy in the 1960s.

To the 27-year-old Buszek, Vargas Girls — she prefers them over the work of Petty — are nothing short of feminist icons. In her "third-wave feminist" view, pinups are "an all-purpose icon for the sassy, tough, punk-rock, sexy woman." The pinup, she argues, was a major weapon in World War II, a "modern war goddess." Now she intends to write a dissertation analyzing and defending pinup art from a feminist perspective.

Goddard said: "It's art. There's no question about that. It's simply a matter of how one perceives it and wishes to interpret it."

You want to tell me that Michelangelo was a great artist?

Should they lend the collection out or keep it tucked away in its vault?

## An Adventurer's Quest for the Glorious

By Ken Ringle  
Washington Post Service

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland — The problem wasn't getting iced-in north of the Arctic Circle 100 miles from the nearest human. Or seeing the sun disappear for three months and blizzards howl around his stranded boat. He had come for that.

Nor was the real problem the polar bear that came roaring into the cockpit, or the carbon monoxide leak that left him partly blind or the paranoia that stalked him as he huddled, dark and alone below decks with the temperature minus-65 and his vessel sinking deeper and deeper into the imprisoning ice.

The real problem, says Alvah Simon, came with the spring thaw, when he found his vessel's hull still frozen to the bottom as melting snows raised water atop the ice higher and higher, threatening to sink him for good. "It was very hard to realize I had come all this way and gone through all that only to very possibly lose everything... just as the sun was promising deliverance," he said calmly.

Obviously he didn't. He's right here talking, after all. But the mad-dening thing about "North to the North," the gripping book describing his year-long adventure experiencing all the seasons in the Arctic ice, is how many more nail-biting incidents lie unmentioned between the lines.

After sailing his 36-foot (12-meter) sloop 8,000 miles (12,800 kilometers) from Colombia to Maine, for example, he realized he was less than halfway to his rendezvous with the Arctic. And he would be sailing most of the next 8,000 miles through fog, dodging convoys of ship-crushing icebergs.

There's the way he writes that the Inuit secure loads on their sleds with bindings made of bearded-seal hide because that's the only substance — including all our expensive synthetic fibers — that you can tie and untie easily when it's 65 below.

Talking to Simon is even worse than reading him. The Arctic trip

came after a slew of tales: His friend was murdered in the Philippines and he and his wife, Diana, had to flee to Borneo; they rounded Cape Horn and sailed through the isles of Indonesia dodging pirates to reach Africa and rebuild a Land Rover and take off alone across Namibia and Botswana for six months.

Alvah, why don't you just get a nice 9-to-5 job and a mortgage in the suburbs instead of courting death?

"Death," he says with complete seriousness, "is only one of many ways to lose your life."

Simon is not your normal adventurer, much less your ordinary author. He never wrote a book before, never really finished high school, never planned to make a living off his exploits and in fact has spent most of his 48 years running away from anything approaching commercial life.

For their Arctic expedition and other efforts to boldly go where few have gone before, he and his wife received Cruising World magazine's 1997 Award for Outstanding Seamanship. But unlike many authors and medal winners, says Jon Eaton, his editor at McGraw-Hill, "Alvah is a very strong person but not in any sense an egotist."

Alvah Simon is one of the great and authentic adventurers of our time," the editor of Cruising World, Bernadette Brennan Berman, told a rapt audience of 200 in introducing his lecture and slide show last month at the Sailboat Show in Annapolis. "It would be difficult to believe his story were it not for the astonishing pictures you'll see here."

That there are pictures of anything is largely due to Diana, an accomplished photographer. Simon himself spent 13 years shoe-stringing his way around the world via its more remote corners before venturing to the Arctic. He never even took along a video camera. "I wanted the experience for myself alone," he says. "I didn't have an agenda for it. It wasn't really even about me. It was about the incredible people I met along the way."



Diana and Alvah Simon aboard their sloop in the Arctic.

When he was younger, he adds,

"I talked about adventure and tried to live it. And that turned into road trips to Mexico, living in the Sonora, and ended up with me running a sky-diving school in Montana." Then, he says, a trip with his brother Jonathan to Central America exposed him to sailing and "there it all finally jelled. That was a life that was larger than life."

When they met in Australia, Diana gave him little hint that she had just spent 10 years sailing through Melanesia, trekking in Nepal, skirting firefights in Afghanistan and living on an Israeli kibbutz. "We spent Christmas together on the Daintree River searching for crocodiles, New Year's in the Atherton Tablelands looking for the duck-billed platypus. In gradual increments she moved aboard."

Together they went on to explore the Philippines and Borneo, Botswana and Namibia, Patagonia and Chile, Cocos Island and Golfo in Costa Rica.

But he had seen a poster that showed a sailboat in Antarctica surrounded by icebergs. "It took my breath away." He says it reminded him of Ernest Shackleton's incredible 1914 voyage to the Antarctic, which ended with the expedition ship crushed by ice and Shackleton sailing an open lifeboat across the icy Southern Ocean 800 miles to South Georgia Island (and then crossing a never-climbed mountain range) to save his men.

"I was green with envy that they lived in a day where you could have adventures that tested the limits of

human endurance," Simon says.

Diana was not enthusiastic. But she yielded to the promise of intellectual discovery — the chance to study how the unforgiving environment shaped the psyche and the culture, as well as the bodies, of a people like the Inuit.

They sold their plywood sloop in Key West. A friend found them a 36-foot cutter in Colombia. It was made of steel and boasted the ideal combination of speed and strength necessary for dodging (and if it came to it, hitting) icebergs. They sailed it to Camden, Maine, and began winterizing both the boat and themselves and working to amass the mountain of equipment and supplies they needed.

On June 1, 1994, they slipped their dock lines and headed north. Unlike other polar explorers, Simon writes in "North to the North," "We were not in search of glory, only the glorious."

They ended up in the Canadian Arctic, tucked into a glacier-fed inlet called Tay Bay north of Baffin Island. They planned to spend the full cycle of the seasons there together, frozen in. But then they learned by ham radio that Diana's father had in New Zealand was dying. He had three months to live and she was his only daughter.

Canadian Coast Guardsmen volunteered a helicopter to airlift her out. Simon was left to spend the long Arctic winter by himself, his sole company a feisty calico kimon named Halifax.

Simon's description of the horrors and glories of the Arctic and its creatures, and what they learned from both, held the crowd in Annapolis enraptured for nearly three hours last month. The author himself says he found what he went there to find and should now be content.

And by rights they should both have the polar regions out of their systems by now. But he is dreaming about South Georgia Island, where Shackleton ended up, "and now with the combination of this boat and our skills there is really nothing we couldn't do."

## PEOPLE

THE actor Michael J. Fox says he has Parkinson's disease. He says he noticed a twitch in his left pinkie finger while shooting a movie seven years ago, and after undergoing tests, he received a diagnosis he has kept secret until now. "It was incomprehensible," he says in the Dec. 7 issue of People magazine. "The doctor said I would be able to function for years and years." By talking about the disease, the 37-year-old Fox said he felt he could help himself, his family — he's married to the actress Tracy Pollan, and they have a 9-year-old son and 3-year-old twin daughters — and others with Parkinson's. Fox will continue to work on the ABC sitcom "Spin City," his spokeswoman said.

The American rapper Coolio appeared in a court in Stuttgart on Thursday to face theft and assault charges almost one year after his arrest for allegedly punching a saleswoman on a concert tour through Europe. Police officials contend that Coolio and six members of his entourage left a boutique in a Stuttgart suburb on Nov. 20, 1997, without paying for clothing worth \$2,000. The rapper is accused of hitting the saleswoman in the stomach when she confronted the group. Coolio, whose real name is Artis Leon Ivey Jr., won a Grammy for best rap solo in 1996 for "Gangsta's Paradise," which was featured in the film "Dangerous Minds."

Sean Connery, known as much for his suave portrayals of

James Bond as his fiery support for Scottish nationalism, will play the role of Saladin, the Muslim who led the 12th-century fight against the Crusaders in Jerusalem, in a forthcoming feature film. The Syrian-American director Mustafa al Akkad said that Connery would star in the film, which will have a budget of about \$100 million.

Michael Jackson has lost an appeal to restore ABC, Paramount Studios and a former TV reporter as defendants in his slander suit against a free-lance writer. Jackson sued Victor Gutierrez for \$100 million in 1995, claiming that Gutierrez told the "Hard Copy" reporter Diane Dimond that there was a video of Jackson having sex with a 13-year-old boy. Earlier this year, a Superior Court jury in Los Angeles ordered Gutierrez to pay Jackson \$2.7 million, but Dimond, ABC and Paramount Studios, which produces "Hard Copy," were dismissed from the lawsuit. The judge said they had acted without malice when they reported the writer's claims, and an appeals court has now upheld that decision.

Kate Mulgrew, captain of television's Starship Voyager, is engaged to Tim Hagan, a Cuyahoga County, Ohio, commissioner, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported. The wedding will take place "as soon as she gets back from Delta Quadrant," joked Hagan. That would be during the show's hiatus next spring.



HIGH HONORS — A visitor to the Kremlin museum in Moscow examining an Order of Saint Andrew, in an exhibition devoted to the order's 300-year history.



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